

Archer to face Tory ethics inquiry

By Andrew Pierce and Dominic Kennedy

CONSERVATIVE chiefs have decided to subject Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare to the first investigation by its powerful new ethics and integrity committee if he pursues his dream of becoming Mayor of London.

The devastating blow to the millionaire novelist's campaign has been dealt by his close friend Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, who has accepted that the former MP Sir Timothy Kison's complaints about Lord Archer's colourful past cannot go unanswered.

No formal announcement will be made, however, until Lord Archer announces his candidacy or until the party starts its selection procedure for the election next year.

Lord Parkinson's decision came as Lord Archer tried to defend himself with a point-by-point rebuttal of allegations against him in the London Evening Standard. The article appeared under the headline "Why I am fit to be mayor", but senior party officials were adamant last night that if he stays in the race he will have to endure the embarrassment of going before the three-man ethics and integrity committee set up by William Hague to prevent a repetition of the Neil Hamilton affair. "It is inconceivable he will not be subjected to an inquiry," one senior official said. "It will happen."

Lord Archer's supporters are confident that he will be exonerated, but they concede that his campaign will be damaged by an appearance before the committee, which will consist of a QC chairman and two senior party figures.

The prospect of a formal investigation will fuel the "Stop Archer" campaign which was begun by Sir Timothy's complaint, which was raised at the Tories' new board of management on Monday. Lord Parkinson will write to Sir Timothy by the end of the week, but the formal announcement of an investigation could be months away.

Mr Hague has significantly failed to come to the rescue of

Lord Archer. Tory MPs were interpreting his silence as a clear sign that the party leadership was distancing itself from the colourful author.

In his Evening Standard article, Lord Archer wrote: "Heaven knows I made mistakes in my life. I am neither genius nor saint. But perhaps future profiles might mention that over recent years I have raised more than £50 million for charity, never once claiming even my own expenses."

He later appeared at a publicity photocall on the Thames Embankment for the charity Help The Aged and made clear that he hoped his article had closed the controversy, insisting that he had received "tremendous support" from his party.

"I hope that, having answered quickly in great detail in the Evening Standard that journalists will not come back and say to me that all this is going to go on," he said. "I hope they will say 'What about congestion? What about pollution? What about the traffic problems? The people out there are sick and tired of personality rubbish.'"

He said he had been inundated with messages of support with calls from two former Tory Party chairmen and five Shadow Cabinet ministers saying "Take no notice." But Michael Crick, who wrote an unauthorised biography of Lord Archer in which many of the allegations came to light, will resume the attack today in an article concentrating on Lord Archer's purchase and sale of 25,000 Anglia Television shares at an overnight profit of nearly £30,000 in 1994.

He said: "Lord Archer's detailed article has thrown up more questions and contradictions. There is a lot more to come out." Mr Crick is also planning a television documentary on the life and times of Lord Archer before the Tories choose their candidate.

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Brazilian fans, whose team meet Scotland in the opening match, urging on the parade in Paris yesterday

France celebrates a hoopla Cup

Ben Macintyre in Paris witnesses a surrealistic welcome for the World Cup championship

FRANCE kicked off the World Cup yesterday with a huge street party involving hundreds of thousands of spectators. Four 65ft plastic giants, a troop of rather cold Cameroonian pygmies and as much hoopla as the French could muster.

Hoopla is a French speciality. After two years of preparation and expenditure of FR50 million (£5 million), the World Cup opening parade was a dazzling, peculiarly Gallic mixture of high technology, strange art, hefty symbolism and traffic jams. Only the observant or imaginative could have spotted that the event was connected to a football tournament.

From the four corners of Paris, the vast plastic giants shuffled at precisely 1mph, on feet made from forklift trucks, towards the Place de la Concorde, where the Egyptian obelisk has been converted into an 80ft replica of the World Cup.

The 38-ton giants were

variously accompanied by dancing orange eyeballs, fish on rollerblades, ostriches, dragons, outside insects, babab trees, termite hills and chessmen — 4,500 extras in all, marching, dancing, flapping, sliding and skating towards the Cup.

At the great square, the giants, now converted into footballers by having numbers projected onto their backs, were greeted by a reception committee that included ten pygmy drummers from Cameroon. They had intended to camp in the Tuileries Gardens in huts made from imported fronds, but after a cold night in the park on Sunday they moved into a hotel to defrost.

The giants, Romeo, Ho, Pablo and Moosha, symbolised Europeans, Asians, American Indians and Africans — the "four primary colours of humanity" — sky blue, canary yellow, orange and purple. The giants called to one another with eerie,



humming music, like mating whales, as they moved across the city skyline.

Jean-Pascal Lévy-Trumet, the 37-year-old theatrical director who claims to have smoked 15,000 cigarettes in the course of organising the ceremony, said the fête de foot "represents the coming together and playful confrontation between peoples and cultures, the universality of football and its World Cup".

Beyond the opening ceremony, a much less playful confrontation between the striking pilots and management of Air France shows no sign of ending. Most of the airline's planes were grounded for the ninth successive

day, and the largest pilots' union rejected calls for a truce during the World Cup. Some train drivers also went on strike last night, but the rail network said disruption would be minimal today.

As M Lévy-Trumet's strange, futuristic vision took shape in the Place de la Concorde, many Scottish soccer fans, some clad in equally outlandish outfits of tartan, wool and enormous wigs, were preparing for today's opening match between Scotland and Brazil.

They have been soaking up the atmosphere in Paris for several days, but there have been no reports of incidents involving police, apart from the theft of a few wallets from the Scottish fans.

The Times today launches the biggest and best World Cup website. Visitors will be able to take advantage of a comprehensive guide to the tournament and links to every World Cup story carried by the newspaper since January 1. Throughout the tournament a live "ticker" will provide news and score updates. No registration is required, so the service will be fast and easy to use. The address is <http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>

Eritreans win the day after dawn offensive by Ethiopia

FROM SAM KILEY IN ZALAMBESSA

ETHIOPIAN forces launched a three-wave offensive to recapture the border town of Zalambessa yesterday, bombarding Eritreans dug into trenches with a massive pre-dawn artillery barrage followed by an infantry assault and more heavy gunfire.

The attack caught the Eritreans by surprise after two days of relative calm and they appeared to be on the verge of losing the town, but they swiftly recovered to mount a counter-attack, and by nightfall the battle was theirs.

The Ethiopian offensive began at 5.30am this morning, the Eritrean Foreign Ministry said in a terse statement that did little justice to what observers believe is the biggest battle so far.

The countryside was turned into a First World War scene of devastated buildings, churned earth, and bodies. Farm land had been carved into winding trenches, and these changed hands at least twice during 12 hours of fighting yesterday.

Artillery shells smashed into the ground one after another in a deadly game of chase as an Eritrean tank scuttled through rocky fields and hid itself behind shattered buildings. Missiles and mortars rained down on infantrymen, sending shards of white hot shrapnel hissing through the air. The mere sound of the battle was enough to stupefy.

The Ethiopian offensive had been launched after the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, ordered his forces to retake Zalambessa. They responded to the command with a heavy artillery attack before dawn, then at first light, infantrymen streamed over a steep escarpment to overrun the first line of Eritrean trenches in spite of coming under fire from tanks and artillery behind the Eritrean main front. Still more heavy guns completed the Ethiopian assault.

Within minutes of the first attack, BM-21 missile launchers known as Stalin Organs, were sending a deluge of rockets into the Ethiopian ranks. Tanks and armour hit by shells exploded with a flash, followed by the scream of tearing metal.

By midday, a full-scale Eritrean counter-attack was under way as veterans of the country's 30-year war for independence and younger soldiers fighting for their new nation for the first time struggled up a hill to reclaim their captured trenches.

The battle won, there was no mistaking the distant and



drawn expressions of the young fighters returning from the fray. Standing in the back of a white truck daubed with mud in a crude effort at camouflage, a group of about ten young men gripped the metal sides of the vehicle and stared into space with a mixture of exhaustion and shock.

Leaving Ethiopian dead in the field, the Eritreans began to gather their wounded and take them the 15 miles to a makeshift military hospital in Senafe. Their own dead were put onto stretchers by their

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Shackled mother awarded £20,000

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE prison service is to pay £20,000 damages to a former woman prisoner whose shackling while she was pregnant sparked a political controversy and forced a change in rules over the chaining of female offenders.

Annette Walker, 33, a former inmate of Holloway prison, north London, is to be paid in recognition of the distress she suffered when she was shackled in hospital before the birth of her daughter.

The disclosure that the prison service has reached an out-of-court settlement with the habitual thief provoked an angry response from Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister at the time.

Miss Widdecombe, now Shadow Health Secretary, was bitterly critical of the payment. "This is farcical. If every time the rules change people can claim they were distressed by the old ones,



Walker: former inmate of Holloway Prison

there would be no end to litigation against the prison service," she said.

The settlement follows the issuing of a summons at the Central London County Court by Ms Walker, seeking basic, aggravated and exemplary or punitive damages of up to

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Patients gain access to surgeons' success rates

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

PATIENTS are to get the right to find out the success rates of doctors who operate on them. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday.

Although league tables of each doctor's performance will not be published, patients will be able to find out detailed information through their GP about the doctors to whom they are referred. This will compare their success rate with the national average.

Mr Dobson, speaking at the backbench health committee of Labour MPs, also confirmed reports that league tables of death rates in hospitals will be published annually from October. He said this information was necessary for patients to exercise their right to give informed consent for an operation.

"Since patients fund the NHS, they have a right to know what's going on in a public

service," he said. From October, hospitals will have to publish a series of indicators covering death and complication rates after an operation, death rates after heart attacks and after a thigh fracture.

The figures would need to be fair as well as accurate, Mr Dobson said. "We need figures that highlight genuine problems, rather than penalise good doctors dealing with desperately ill patients. So figures will need to be risk-adjusted," he added.

Measures would be drawn up to make it possible to judge specialty by specialty and hospital by hospital. For example, some hospitals might be good at heart surgery but bad at hip replacements.

Mr Dobson said the new system would start with heart surgery. By the end of the year a robust set of clinical indicators for cardiac services would

be published and monitored in every NHS hospital. He had decided to end the existing voluntary system of reporting deaths in four categories. These cover surgery, stillbirths and infant deaths, maternal deaths and suicides among mental patients. In future, all doctors will be obliged to send results to a national audit programme.

This kind of audit exists for some specialties, including surgery, but it is based on results submitted voluntarily and is not made public.

"Doctors with results which fell short of the norms would have to take urgent action to improve their results. Where there was an unacceptable mortality, it might be necessary for them to stop performing the procedure. Fellow professionals could then provide extra training, supervision and support."



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Magic carpet riders lose the thread on journey back in time

Join our sketch on a magic carpet ride (with a stop or two) back over the decades. For the first leg of our flight we hop nearly a quarter century: to 1974.

A young MP of 31, described in Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* as "dark, handsome, trendy-looking, idealistic, full mop of curly black hair" has just made a stunning leap, early in his career, to ministerial office. The youthful new junior minister at Agriculture (who only three years earlier voted against Britain's membership

of the Common market) is to introduce a Bill providing a minimum wage for farmhands. To have come so far, so fast, gives promise of a meteoric political career. "Watch this space," say all the wise heads of political commentary.

We note the opinion and rebound our flying carpet, this time for a much shorter hop: back to 1971.

London is abuzz with rumour. The actress who took the female lead in Ken Russell's outrageous new film about Tchaikovsky, The

Music Lovers, to get an Oscar for her stunning performance as the composer's disappointed bride? London dinner parties crackle with controversy over whether she was well advised to appear naked in that now-notorious railway-carriage honeymoon scene. But nobody questions her talent.

Did she get the Oscar? Yes. We take note, hopping onto our time machine a leap back five years to 1965.

A new research fellow in gerontology has just been appointed in the Sociology



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Department of the University of Essex. He is only 26; obviously a brilliant academic. "Looks like a schoolboy storybook hero," writes the journalist Colin Welch. "Tall, dark, lean and earnest," say others.

Already fascinated by politics, he is on the intellectual Left and a member of the Fabian Society. The young

research fellow is soon to contest Colchester in a by-election, for Labour.

Did he win? No. We record the attempt, and move on for our shortest hop: just two years this time, but we are now 35 years back from today. It is 1965.

The room is swaying — for we are at sea. Who is the burly young steward bearing down

on us, sweating under the weight of that tray of minestrone? He is 25. He looks confident. Already active in his seamen's union, his wider ambitions (if he has any) are known only to himself.

Yesterday in Parliament, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, John Prescott (60), was a little burlier, no less sweaty, and as confident as ever. The man they call Two-Jags brushed aside a scattering of Tory jeers about his non-appearance at the Parli-

mentary Cycle Ride that morning. "I welcome National Bicycle Week," he roared. How far away now, that minestrone!

Beside him sat his junior ministers. Bespectacled Michael Meacher (58), earnest as ever and still lean, was tackling an inquiry about the environmental impact of water prices. What price now that fellowship in gerontology? And where those revolutionary dreams?

Gavin Strang's tousled, romantic black locks are greying a little, at 54. Trendy

would be the wrong word, and idealism, if still there, is concealed. He never quite made it to the top but, well, Transport matters, doesn't it?

"It is the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council to decide how they will prioritise funds for the roads for which they have responsibility," Glenda Jackson (62) declared, summoning what theatricality the lines will bear. Twenty-eight years on, and still sticking to her script. No Oscar for this, we fear. But at least she no longer has to take her clothes off.

Prescott accelerates city charges for drivers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT has ordered officials to speed up the drafting of new laws allowing motorists to be charged for driving in city centres and is pressing for a bill in the next session of Parliament.

Legislation in the session beginning this autumn could mean pilot charging schemes to start as early as 2000, and several cities are already preparing to charge motorists up to £5 a day, Edinburgh, Leicester and Bristol are the most advanced in planning, although central London is also seen as a potential location for a pilot project.

Advisers have previously suggested that laws enabling road charging were unlikely to be introduced until at least 2000, but Mr Prescott is thought to be keen to bring forward the date to next year. He is pressing for a wide-ranging transport Bill that would also incorporate new laws to regulate the rail industry, but faces a battle with Cabinet colleagues to win Parliamentary time for his legislation.

Officials have been told to move quickly after next month's publication of a Government transport white paper, to set out further proposals that can be taken into legislation at short notice. A so-called "daughter document" of the white paper will include more details of how

councils might operate congestion charging and a system of charging employers for employee parking spaces.

Congestion charging is to be a key element of the white paper, although Mr Prescott will attempt to fight off accusations that his plans are "anti-car" by unveiling other proposals that are favourable to motorists. He plans to introduce a roads watchdog to ensure that roads are adequately maintained and will channel additional money into maintenance.

He will also press for rapid improvements to bus services, with additional subsidies in rural areas, and funding priority will be given to council plans to encourage walking and cycling and reducing traffic speeds. Additional money for the schemes will be raised partly at local level through charging schemes.

Mr Prescott is believed to have been impressed by early results from a £3.5 million trial government project in Leicester, which suggests that a £3 charge could deter up to one in five motorists from driving into the city centre if reliable alternative transport is available.

Provisional results from the trial, published yesterday, indicate that almost four in ten motorists will travel into the city centre by bus and other forms of transport when the daily charge rises to £10.

Number's up for old registration system

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE end of the annual car number plate system will be announced today. It is to be replaced by twice-yearly registration.

The new registrations will start next March and a new lettering system will be introduced later to show where the car was bought.

The revision of the 35-year-old system is meant to end the traditional August sales frenzy, when garages often do a quarter of their annual trade.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, will announce that the changes will reduce motor manufacturers' costs and is expected to call for the car trade to pass on the reductions to customers.

Carmakers complain that millions of pounds are lost because of stockpiling.

In 2001, when registrations have reached the letter Y, a new lettering system identifying the place of purchase will begin.



Lord Mackay and his daughter Flora arriving at Raigmore Hospital yesterday

Mackay and wife waited three hours for rescue

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LORD Mackay of Clashfern, the former Lord Chancellor, comforted his injured wife, Elizabeth, for three hours on a freezing mountainside as they waited to be rescued, it emerged yesterday.

Lady Mackay, 63, fell and broke her leg on Monday afternoon after slipping on wet moss, having completed an ascent of 3,313ft Beinn Eighe in Wester Ross, Highland, with a group of friends.

She lay in agony while a companion walked five miles back to the car park at Bridge of Grudie to raise the alarm. The rescue was delayed when the helicopter was given the wrong map co-ordinates and it managed to locate the party only after making numerous low sweeps of the hillside.

The shivering couple were finally airlifted to safety at about 6pm. Lady Mackay was taken to the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford, on Skye, for treatment and was transferred to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness yesterday. It emerged that she had broken the tibia and fibula in her right leg.

Lord Mackay, 70, said it was fortunate that one of their party, Catherine MacKenzie, was a nurse and was able to administer her first aid and give his wife painkillers from her rucksack.

"My wife was in such pain for several hours but there was little we could do for her but keep her warm and try and make her as comfortable as possible," he said. "But I am afraid my wife went through quite a rough time until rescue arrived."

The six-strong party had been heading down the mountain track when the accident happened. Lord Mackay said: "We picked her

up but it was clear that something quite major had happened. She is normally very careful but this mossy patch caught her out."

Torrison Mountain Rescue Team and the Stornoway-based Coastguard helicopter were scrambled. Praising the rescue and medical services, Lord Mackay said: "My wife was promptly picked up by the Coastguard helicopter and given excellent treatment by the crew. The rescue services and all the staff at Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Skye. We are very grateful for the great kindness she has received and hope that she will make a complete recovery."

Yesterday Lady Mackay, who lives with her husband in Fortrose, near Black Isle, Inverness, said: "My leg is a bit sore but I am fine. The staff have been marvellous."

As Dr Mowlam prepared to release the names, a senior Irish official telephoned to say that Rita O'Hare, Sinn Féin's publicity director in Dublin and a member of the party's executive, was furious about the membership. Dr Mowlam telephoned her personally, even though Ms O'Hare is on the RUC's wanted list for attempted murder.

Ms O'Hare was part of an IRA gang that wounded an army officer during a gun battle in West Belfast in 1971. She was wounded and arrested in her hospital bed but jumped bail and fled to Dublin. In 1975 she was imprisoned for trying to smuggle explosives to a jailed IRA member.

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Mowlam looks to police for help over new leak

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, called in the police yesterday to discuss whether they could launch a criminal investigation into the latest embarrassing leak from her department.

Dr Mowlam acted after a document written by her private secretary was passed to Jeffrey Donaldson, the Ulster Unionist MP. It disclosed, among other things, that she had discussed the composition of the new commission on reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary with an IRA fugitive in Dublin. Unionists expressed outrage.

The minister has been plagued by leaks since taking office and internal investigations have proved fruitless.

The latest was a document summarising the telephone conversations Dr Mowlam had before announcing the composition of the RUC commission, to be chaired by Chris Patten, last week. It made clear Dublin's alarm at the proposed membership and its insistence that "a nationalist with street cred in Northern Ireland was essential to balance the commission".

To prevent this becoming an issue in this month's assembly elections, Dr Mowlam telephoned first Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the nationalist SDLP, who was "not ecstatic" but apparently acquiesced, then Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin, who was also unhappy but said he would do his best not to make the membership a public issue.

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Brussels to propose lifting UK beef ban

The European Commission is due today to propose lifting the remaining EU ban on the export of most British beef, opening the way to a possible resumption of sales this year. The commission is expected to back Britain's request for the export embargo to be lifted for meat from animals born after August 1, 1996, the date when it became an offence to feed meat and bone meal to livestock. This effectively covers all meat likely to be exported for human consumption. In the first easing of the ban, imposed in March 1996 at the height of the BSE scare, beef from Northern Ireland was cleared last month for export from June 1. Final approval for the proposal could come in the autumn.

Truckers face charges

Police are to prosecute more than a dozen truckers whose motorway protest over fuel tax brought chaos to the M25. The drivers of fourteen lorries out of a convoy of 60 that crawled round the motorway through Essex at less than 20mph on Monday have been warned that they are to be charged with driving without due care and consideration. The convoy caused tail-backs of up to eight miles during the rush-hour as it approached the Dartford crossing.

Special needs move

Estelle Morris, a junior Education Minister, is to tell the National Union of Teachers that the Government will set up regional centres offering specialist services for children with learning difficulties who will be able to spend some of the week in mainstream schools. Opponents of plans to transfer pupils with special needs to mainstream schools have said teachers would not be able to cope. Ms Morris will say the Government has no plans to close special schools.

Inspectors' double take

A teachers' leader demanded an independent body to oversee school inspections yesterday after it was disclosed that two teams of inspectors had reached contrasting verdicts on the governing body of Dogsthorpe Junior School, Peterborough, within three weeks. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said such discrepancies would fuel doubts about the consistency of inspections.

Hepatitis C warning

Researchers gave a warning yesterday about a looming epidemic of Hepatitis C, which can kill by causing cancer or liver disease. The virus was discovered only nine years ago but is now considered a bigger threat to world health than Aids. John Dillon, consultant liver expert at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, said: "Hepatitis C has been called the real millennium bug." One rough estimate suggests there are 250,000 people infected with the virus in Britain.

Dud's disappearing act

Dudley Moore has disappeared from view following a claim by his estranged wife that he is back in London and "waiting to die". Speaking on an American television show, Moore's fourth wife, Nicole Rothschild, 34, said: "Different people who have been around him say he's not even a shadow of the person he was. How serious is his illness? He said he was waiting to die." It was then reported that Moore, 63, had escaped to the Hampstead home of Suzy Kendall, one of his ex-wives whom he divorced in 1972. But yesterday note on Ms Kendall's door read: "On behalf of Suzy Kendall, I: Dudley Moore is not here. 2: When she spoke to him a few days ago he was not dying or wanting to die."



Lamont shortlisted

Norman Lamont, the former Tory chancellor, has taken a step further towards a political comeback by making it on to the final shortlist of candidates for the European elections in the North East. The former MP, who lost his Parliamentary seat at the last election, has already been rejected by Tory activists in two of the other 11 Euro-regions set up for next year's elections.

Elgin Marbles appeal

Accusations that the British Museum has damaged the Elgin Marbles has prompted Greek's Minister for Culture to write to Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, demanding an international commission be set up to examine them and, hopefully, recommend their return to Greece. The author William St Clair says in a book the marbles were irreparably damaged during cleaning.

Eritreans win the day

Continued from page 1 comrades, who preferred to carry the corpses for miles rather than leave them to rot alongside their enemies.

Other young men wandered back into Senafe in sweat and dirt-stained combat fatigues, silent, and sullen. They walked stiffly into a local bar, still raw with the tension of battle. A pickup truck crammed with wounded flashed by; its grim cargo waving bandaged limbs as it raced by to a hospital.

Eritrean military commanders said that the Ethiopians attacked "had been repulsed," but that they were

expecting another attempt to retake Zalambessa.

Yesterday the last 100 American diplomats and Ethiopian citizens were due to be flown out of the Eritrean capital, Asmara, after warnings from Ethiopia that it would launch more air raids on the city. President Afewerki said that he had been personally warned to leave his residence, which said that his home would be a target. "A bleak escalation of the conflict on the ground is the problem, but we are willing to discuss peace," he said.

The latest flare-up comes after a call by Eritrea on

Monday for direct talks between the two former friends and for high-level mediators to help. Mr Afewerki criticised attempts to achieve a "quick fix" through a deal brokered by Rwanda and Susan Rice, the American Assistant Secretary of State. "The problem with the peace process is the hasty way it was managed by the Americans. They believe in quick fixes and bulldozing and that does not work. It is not in our culture."

Both Mr Afewerki and Mr Zenawi were annoyed that America had sent a 33-year-old woman to resolve their conflict.

Shackled mother's £20,000

Continued from page 1 £50,000 for the pain, distress, humiliation, anxiety and injury caused by the use of "unnecessary, excessive and unlawful force".

Ms Walker, who was six months' pregnant when she was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for theft, was shackled by handcuffs with a chain between them when she was taken from Holloway to the nearby Whittington hospital in December 1995, suffering abdominal pains.

She claimed that prison officers agreed to remove the cuffs during an examination, but remained in the room.

Afterwards, she was chained to a bed in a 12-bed ward.

On a third visit to the hospital, she said she was chained throughout and on the fourth visit gave birth. Her summons said that she was chained to a bed in a private room before the birth, and when she went out of the room to have a cigarette she was shackled to an officer. "At almost the moment of birth, the officers' shift changed and a male officer came into the labour room while the plaintiff was covered in blood and the placenta was being delivered", her claim said.

Last night a prison service spokesman said: "A settlement has been mutually agreed. The guidelines on the use of restraints have been revised since the case."

A source said that the settlement with Ms Walker, who had appeared in court 12 times for 17 theft offences — the first at the age of 15 — had been agreed in recognition of her distress.

Ms Walker, a mother of three, was a handbag thief and was sentenced in October 1995 after she and her boyfriend snatched a handbag containing £5,000. Prisoners giving birth in hospital are no longer handcuffed.

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Missing doctor's wife gives birth to his son

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE wife of a doctor who vanished eight months ago has given birth to his son. Last night she begged her missing husband: "Come home and see your new baby."

Jane Noble gave birth to 10lb 12oz Iain Matthew on Monday night. Her husband, Matthew Choyce, has not been seen since he slipped out of their home early on October 7 last year.

Now Dr Noble hopes that news of the birth will bring him home. From her hospital bed, she said: "It would have been so nice to have had Matthew here with me at the birth. I am sure he would have loved to have been here."

"I need him to help me with the baby. He is very good with kids and really loves them. I just want him to get in touch so he can find out how I am, how our beautiful baby is and so I can find out how he is. I want us all to have a hug together. We really are a family now and it would be wonderful if he came home."

Dr Choyce's disappearance has baffled his wife because she had just learnt that she was expecting the baby that they had both longed for. Earlier last year they lost a child when Dr Noble, 30, had a miscarriage. He was a senior registrar at Sunderland Royal Hospital and was considering his next career move.

Dr Choyce, 34, left the couple's semi-detached house in Newcastle upon Tyne between 4am and 7.15am without any explanation. His car was found abandoned on the Tyneside coast but,

in spite of an extensive search, no sign has been found of him.

Police found his grey Renault Clio in a hotel car park at Tynemouth, with a note on the passenger seat. It read: "Jane, I love you very much. Love to my family. Thanks to my friends for all their advice."

At first it was feared that he had walked into the sea, but his body has not been found and his wife is convinced that he is still alive. Dr Noble, a researcher at the University of Newcastle and a specialist in geriatric care, works one day a week at the city's Freeman Hospital. She said in March: "I just want to tell him I love him. I need him and, more importantly still, our baby needs him. I am desperate for him to come home

and be a father. I know how happy we can all be."

"We had known about the baby for about five weeks before Matthew went missing, but we hardly talked about it because we were just at the stage of keeping our fingers crossed. A lot of pregnancies fail in the early weeks and we didn't want to tempt fate."

"He was really looking forward to fatherhood. He was more broody than me, initially. He was very keen on the idea of becoming a dad and managed to convince me it would be a good idea. When I miscarried it was a very difficult time for both of us, but we helped each other get through it."

"When I fell pregnant again, it was a great joy and relief. I am hoping against hope that the

prospect of being a father is enough to persuade him to come back. I am convinced he is out there somewhere, possibly even abroad."

"I know how much he wanted this baby, but I think it must have been pushed to the back of his mind by other problems. People have asked whether it might have been the thought of the pregnancy that kept him away. I don't believe that for a second. If anything, the prospect of being a father would have kept him at home."

Earlier this month a two-minute silent message was left on her answering machine. Experts are attempting to trace the background noise. Dr Noble said: "He could be the man sitting in the doorway asking for some money, or alternatively he could have managed to find himself a job."

"I have concentrated my searches for him in London, the North East and Bath, where we met. I have also started talking to people in Oxford, where he went to university. It came as a terrible shock when he left, because we'd had no quarrel or dispute."

His bank account has remained untouched and he left behind every personal document and credit card. The only belongings he is known to have with him are the clothes he wore on the day he left and his car keys.

Dr Choyce's mother, Diane, said yesterday: "We are all thrilled about the news. I hope Matthew will hear about it, and it will bring him home."



Jane Noble and Matthew Choyce on their wedding day



Dr Noble with their son yesterday. She urged her husband: "Come home and see your baby"

Registrar found pressures of the NHS too much to bear

Matthew Choyce was an idealist troubled by the realities of a medical career, writes Paul Wilkinson

MATTHEW CHOYCE, an Old Etonian who graduated from Oxford in 1987, disappeared from his home on October 7 last year while suffering from stress related to his hospital career.

Only a month earlier he had moved to the casualty department of Sunderland Royal Hospital as a senior registrar on rotation from other hospitals in the North East, but his next career move would have been the final one to a consultancy.

The surgeon's decision to leave "frontline" doctoring for the relatively more comfortable position of

a specialist was known to be troubling him. He had sought advice from many sources, including colleagues and his father, Peter, a respected London eye specialist and a university professor.

The night before he vanished, Dr Choyce rang his father for the number of the Old Etonian Medical Society, but he never made contact. Earlier this year Professor Choyce, 79, who described his son as an idealist, said: "I think his

concerns were career-related. Accident and emergency work is very hard and the NHS today is not what it was when I was young."

He said a career in medicine today was "a bloody awful prospect", and added: "I did not encourage Matthew to take up medicine because I could see this young man was very gifted and that whatever he wanted to do he could do well."

Dr Choyce, from Essex, comes from a family of professionals. In

addition to his father, one brother, Jonathan, also became a doctor after graduating from Cambridge, and his other brother, Greg, is a lawyer.

He met Jane Noble at the Royal United Hospital in Bath when he was a senior house officer and she was a junior doctor. He had also worked at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol. The couple married two years ago. Dr Noble, who studied medicine at Cambridge and Oxford, said he was keen to become a

father and her miscarriage early last year "hit him very hard". But the news of her pregnancy had buoyed him up.

She has refused to give up hope of tracing her husband. At first it was assumed that he had walked into the sea at Tynemouth, but the time has long passed now when a body should have been recovered. Four days after he vanished, his green and blue T-shirt was washed up, but tests showed that it had not come from a body. There

have been 25 reported sightings of a man answering Dr Choyce's description, mostly from the London area.

Dr Noble believes he is still alive, possibly having had a breakdown, convinced that he is a worthless failure and too frightened to return. He might have gone abroad or might be living with down-and-outs in London. She has toured hostels for the homeless and soup kitchens in the capital and posted his picture on

the Underground and parts of the country where he is known. Last Christmas she, her twin sister Ann, and Jonathan Choyce toured scores of temporary refuges set up for the holiday period.

She said: "I would do whatever was needed. If he wanted to move to a different town, make a fresh start, whatever, I would do it. I don't think it would be a problem. I'm sure we would cope with it."

She asked anyone who might know where he was to contact the National Missing Persons Helpline on a 24-hour Freephone number, 0500 700700.

Parents tell of pain over daughter who vanished

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO years ago today Steve and Pat Hall's old life ended. That was the day their 25-year-old daughter was reported missing after an evening out at a nightclub with friends. The blonde psychology graduate has not been seen since.

The Halls said yesterday that they had become convinced shortly after Melanie's disappearance that she was dead, murdered by someone she had met that night. But although their heads tell them that their daughter is never coming home, the uncertainty has left their hearts in limbo, unable to grieve and unable to heal.

Mrs Hall, a nurse at the hospital in Bath where Melanie worked as a clerical officer, appealed for her killer to let them know what had happened. "I find it hard not knowing where she is and what happened to her. If somebody could say to me it hadn't hurt and hadn't been too painful, then my worst fears would not have come true."

Melanie was last seen on the dancefloor of Cadillacs, a crowded nightclub in the centre of Bath, in the early hours of the morning. Her German boyfriend, Philip Kurbaum, a doctor at the Royal United Hospital, where she worked, was fed up and went home early. Unaware that he had left, the two friends who had accompanied

the couple to the disco were unconcerned when, at 1.10am, Melanie declined their offer of a lift and said she wanted to carry on dancing.

After two years of inquiries, hundreds of hours of searches and thousands of interviews with, among others, 1,200 minicab drivers and 800 people who passed through Cadillacs that night, police said yesterday that they were no closer to finding Melanie or her killer.

The last link — it is too strong to call it a clue — is that her jacket was collected from the cloakroom.

In an attempt to find new leads, a £10,000 reward was yesterday offered by Avon and Somerset police and a local newspaper for the conviction

of her killer. Like her parents, detectives are convinced that Melanie is dead.

Speaking at the Halls' home on the outskirts of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, Detective Chief Inspector Graham Cawley said: "This is not a family one would run away from. They were very close and, if Melanie was going anywhere, she would always phone her parents. I do not think she will be found alive. The question is whether we will ever find her body."

Upstairs, Melanie's room is exactly as she left it. The teddy bear she was given at the age of two sits on her pillow, a magazine from May 1996 lies on the bed. Only the fresh flowers have been changed.

Mr Hall, 54, a former college lecturer who briefly became a painter after Melanie's disappearance and now runs Bath Football Club, said: "Her bedroom is not a shrine and we are not keeping it in case she returns. We just don't know what else to do. We think she has been murdered. But until she has been found, to change things would feel like we were abandoning her."

The Halls say that they and Melanie's sister, Dominique, have been numb since her disappearance. Mr Hall said: "We will never be the same again. A part of Pat and I died when Melanie disappeared."



Melanie Hall: police believe she was killed

Billie-Jo accused 'feared stalker'

By JOANNA BALE

THE foster parents of Billie-Jo Jenkins, who was killed in February 1997, had been planning to move because they feared they were being watched, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Gaimster, a friend of Lois and Sion Jenkins, told Lewes Crown Court that they had spoken of their concerns a week before the girl was battered to death at their home in Hastings, East Sussex. Mr Jenkins had shown Mr Gaimster a security light he had fitted, and the couple talked of receiving strange telephone calls and said their car had been vandalised. Mr Gaimster said: "They had not reported any incident to the police but were so worried that they had decided to move home."

On the night of the 13-year-old's death, Mr and Mrs Jenkins and their four natural daughters stayed with Mr Gaimster's family. He told the court that Mr Jenkins, who denies murdering Billie-Jo, had been very quiet and had gone to bed early.

Detective Constable Tracey Christmas said that that night she saw Mr Jenkins refuse to wear a jacket — which the court has been told was found to have tiny splashes of the girl's blood on it — even though it was cold. The trial continues.

Jailhouse rock was an injustice

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a typical dispute between father and teenagers over loud music — except that it ended with the recalcitrant children locking their father out of the house. Worse, when Trevor Foulkes called the police, he was arrested and held for 24 hours for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Yesterday Mr Foulkes, 53, won damages for wrongful arrest and the Court of Appeal ruled he was entitled to compensation. The police officer had acted "with the best of intentions" but was inexperienced and had exceeded his legal powers, the court ruled.

Mr Foulkes was "in the throes of a family dispute" with his children, Karl, 18, and Lindsay, 19, because they were playing music loudly. Lord Justice

Beldam said in his ruling. The police originally removed the children, escorting them from the house in Walton, Liverpool, in the early hours of December 20, 1994. But when the father awoke in the morning, they had returned. His son stopped him using the telephone to call the police, so Mr Foulkes went out to use a public call box.

When he returned, his wife, Esther, and his children had changed the lock on the front door of the home he had shared during his 22-year marriage.

Two police constables arrived to find Mr Foulkes "nervous and jittery", sitting on the front doorstep. He insisted he wanted to get back into his house.

When he refused to leave "until tempers had cooled", he was arrested for

behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. Mr Foulkes spent the rest of the day and night in custody at Walton police station before his wife withdrew a statement that he should be bound over.

Lords Justice Beldam, Schiemann and Thorpe yesterday overturned the ruling of Liverpool Crown Court which rejected Mr Foulkes's claims that he had been unlawfully arrested and imprisoned.

Lord Justice Thorpe said Mr Foulkes was "both the injured party and the detained person. That is a manifestly unsatisfactory result." He said Mr Foulkes was "entitled to expect some support from the officers in his effort to terminate the wrongful exclusion" from his home.



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Straw's change to Bill 'unfair'

By FRANCES GIBB

JACK STRAW has put forward an amendment to the Human Rights Bill that could strictly limit the ability of people to pursue breaches of human rights by imposing a one-year time limit on claims.

The move by the Home Secretary is under attack by groups such as Liberty, which says it undermines the effect of the human rights legislation and will stop large numbers of claims being brought.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, said the amendment was unnecessary and unfair and might be a violation of the very rights the Bill was intended to enshrine, by limiting access to the courts. In some cases, such as judicial review proceedings, the time limit is three months although courts have discretion to extend it.

"The consequence of this amendment will be to prevent good claims against public authorities ever being brought. Violations of human rights will go without remedies."

He accepted that the government amendment gave courts a discretion to extend the time limit if it was right to do so "in all the circumstances". But that too would create unfairness and be arbitrary, he added.

Courts will gain new powers to protect witnesses

Richard Ford reports on the proposed measures aimed at curbing intimidation

FRIGHTENED victims of crime and vulnerable witnesses are to be shielded by screens when they give evidence in an attempt to stop defendants intimidating them.

Under changes in court-room practice to be announced today, courts are to be urged to relocate witness boxes so that a witness cannot be seen directly from the public gallery, preventing defendants' friends from identifying and threatening witnesses.

Men accused of stalking could be barred from cross-examining alleged victims in court. The changes also include a ban on rape defendants cross-examining their alleged victims.

The measures are to be unveiled by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The 78 recommendations, which will cost an estimated £9 million to implement, are aimed at encouraging witnesses to go to the police and overhauling the way in which the courts deal with rape and serious sexual offences.

Mr Straw will unveil plans to change English law so that the previous sexual history of rape victims would, in most cases, be inadmissible as evidence. The change is aimed at preventing barristers from questioning victims at length about past relationships.

Mr Straw has accepted

most of the recommendations made by the Home Office-led working party, which found that in some areas 13 per cent of incidents reported by victims to the police were followed by intimidation including verbal abuse, threats, damage to property and violence.

"It would appear that the most 'normal' criminals, those not involved in large-scale or serious crime, are intimidating witnesses, especially as the increasing use of forensic and scientific evidence means that the witness is fast becoming one of the only accessible links for the defendant in an attempt to influence the trial," the 268-page report says.

At present, screens can be used only in cases involving child witnesses and in high-security cases, such as IRA trials, but the report says that they should be made available

on a statutory basis to help vulnerable or intimidated witnesses.

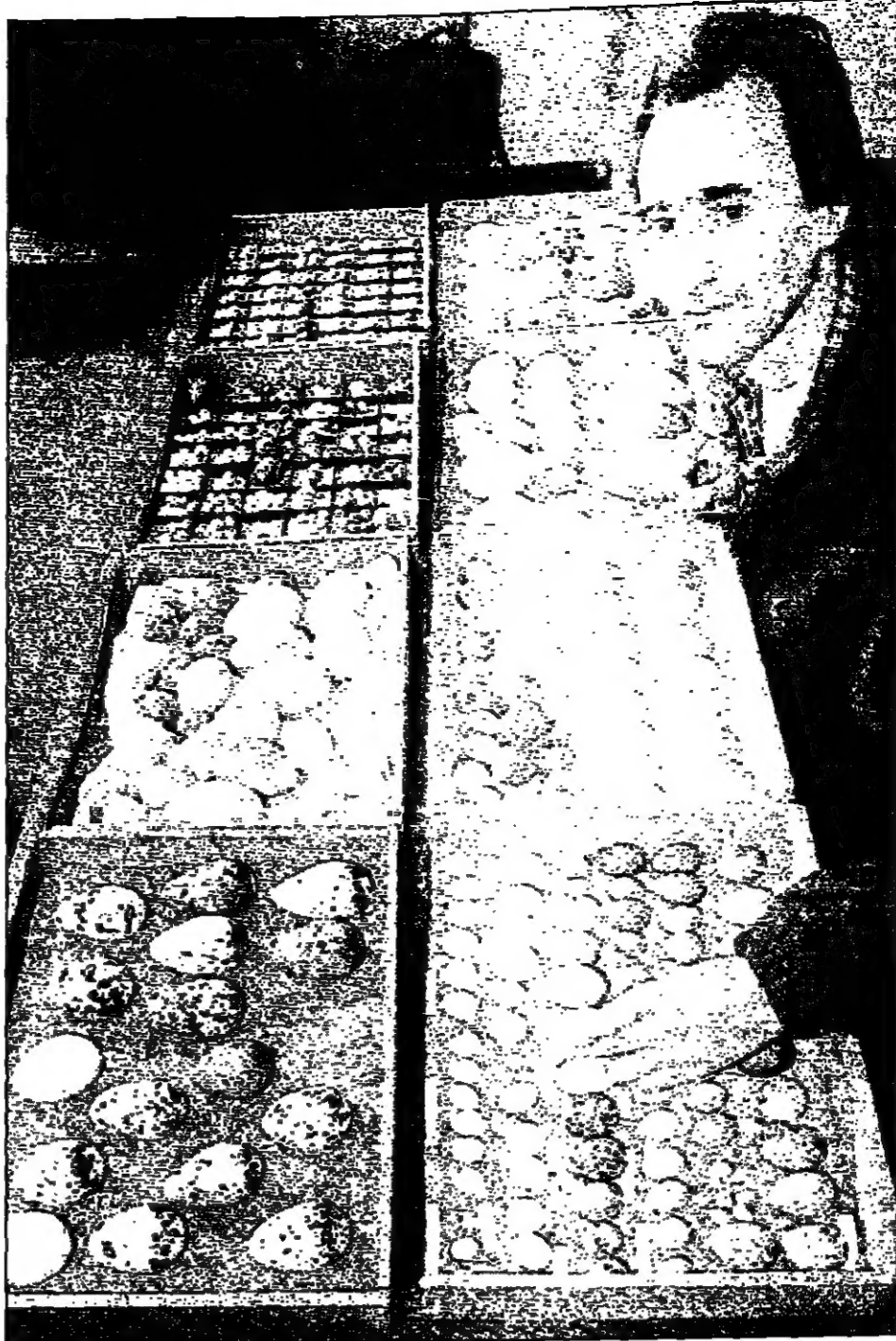
Other changes include allowing the use in magistrates' courts of evidence given by video link, allowing a witness to be accompanied by a friend while giving evidence via closed-circuit television, and giving judges the statutory power to require the removal of wigs and gowns in cases in which the witnesses are nervous.

Courts are to have the power to ban the press from reporting details that could identify a witness where there is a risk of intimidation. They are also expected to be given the power to remove the public in a trial for rape, serious sexual offences and other cases where there is a risk of intimidation when a victim is giving evidence.

Frightened witnesses are to be given protection including panic alarms linked to police stations, electronic pagers so witnesses can remain outside a court building until they are summoned to give evidence, and official escorts to and from home.

The measures are expected to form part of the Government's second crime Bill, to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Charlotte Kane, page 18



Duncan McNiven of the RSPB with the collection of stolen eggs yesterday

Haul of stolen rare eggs seized

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

EGGS stolen from the nests of some of Britain's rarest wild birds were seized in a police raid yesterday. Among the 250 eggs laid out on trays in a purpose-built wooden cabinet was one from a red-backed shrike, which vanished from the hedgerows of England ten years ago.

The songbird became extinct in this country because of the increasing use of pesticides that wiped out the insects on which it fed. As it declined, its eggs became increasingly sought after by collectors, hastening its demise.

The raid on a house in Barnstaple, north Devon, also found eggs of peregrine falcons, barn owls and wood-larks, and of lesser known species such as the owl bunting, which has been reduced to a few hundred breeding pairs.

Wildlife officers from Devon and Cornwall police were yesterday working with Graham Elliott, head of investigations for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and his colleague Duncan McNiven, to identify and catalogue the eggs. They also took dozens of maps.

In a similar raid last month, 409 eggs were recovered in the town. Details were not released at the time to avoid alerting illicit collectors.

Two men were voluntarily helping with police inquiries at Barnstaple yesterday.

Officer cleared of CS spray assault

By ADAM FRESCO

THE first police officer to be charged with unlawfully using CS spray, after he squirted it at a pensioner who had stopped on double yellow lines, walked free from court yesterday.

PC Andrew Taylor, 31, a traffic officer, used the spray on Kenneth Whitaker, 67, after he became abusive, refused to give personal details and tried to bite him when he reached into the car to take his keys.

Mr Whitaker had stopped to drop off his disabled wife, Phyllis, 76, at a hairdresser's shop in Kempston, Bedfordshire. In May last year, after using the spray, PC Taylor put handcuffs on Mr Whitaker, pulled him from the car and took him to a nearby police station.

Luton Crown Court was told that Mr Whitaker was still shouting and kicking the back of the passenger seat of the police car during the journey.

As the jury returned its verdict of not guilty on the charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, PC Taylor fled from court in tears to cuddle his six-month-old son. His wife, Rebecca, also a police officer in Bedfordshire, said "thank you" to the jury and collapsed crying in a relative's arms.

When asked if he would be

awarding costs to PC Taylor, who had funded his own defence, Judge Daniel Rodwell said: "Notwithstanding the verdict, this has been a disturbing and upsetting case. I fear the reaction of the civil court will be quite different and will cost the Bedfordshire Police Authority a lot of money. It would be totally wrong to fund this defendant's costs out of public money."

During the trial, PC Taylor said that Mr Whitaker had refused several times to give his details or to step out of his car. He said: "The driver had his teeth clenched and his arms were rigid. I used the CS spray because I felt in fear for my safety."

Mr Whitaker was charged under the Public Order Act



PC Taylor: he feared for his own safety

and was kept in the station for nine hours, even though he should have been released as soon as he gave his name to the custody officer, the court was told. The charge was later dropped when the case reached the magistrates' court. Mr Whitaker has since received a substantial sum in compensation in an out-of-court settlement from Bedfordshire Police. His family said yesterday that they would be seeking legal advice.

Mr Whitaker said from his home yesterday: "Justice has not been done. It is a sad day today."

His daughter, Jennifer, a nurse, said outside the court: "My father is a 67-year-old pensioner who was in his car with his seatbelt on, and he was sprayed with CS gas because a 31-year-old police officer thought he was a danger."

"The judge was on the side of justice as far as we are concerned, and the jury on the side of the officer."

A spokesman for the Police Federation, speaking on behalf of the Taylors, said: "They just want to get on with their lives and return to their jobs as police officers."

He said it was expected that the Police Federation would meet the cost of the defence case. Mr Taylor will not face any disciplinary action and will return to full duty.

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The end of ordinary life as we know it

Adrian Lee and Maria Alvarez on the football phenomenon that will change everything — for 32 days

BRITISH Football Time is scheduled to begin today at 4.30pm, when the first ball is kicked in the World Cup finals. For the next 32 days — for fans and haters of football alike — English and Scottish lifestyles will be thrown into turmoil by the 64 matches of France 98.

Work, shopping, holidays, commuting, social and family life will be dictated not by the normal clock but by the kick-off times of key matches. Half the matches begin during working hours, including today's opening fixture between Scotland and Brazil, and England's encounter with Tunisia at 1.30pm

on Monday. The AA warned drivers that the evening rush hour would start at 3pm on days when there are important afternoon games. A second rush is likely as people leave pubs and offices in their hundreds of thousands after matches.

Shopping habits will be transformed. Supermarkets are drafting in extra staff before afternoon games to ensure that customers are not delayed at check-out queues. For the first time, pizzas, soft drinks and ready meals will replace

sweets on stands near Sainsbury's tills to enable shoppers to make speedy visits. Shifts are being altered to allow staff to watch games and make up time later. A spokeswoman said: "We have had a team of 50 people working on this for weeks. The World Cup will temporarily change the way many people shop."

Britons are delaying their holidays until after the tournament. Despite slashing prices, travel agents said that bookings were down. Nights out — unless they

involve sitting in front of somebody else's television set — are apparently out. Tables are still available at some of London's most popular restaurants on evenings when England play. West End theatres also expect to suffer. "The World Cup is certainly not going to help," said Rupert Rhymes, chief executive of the Society of London Theatre. The opening night of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Whistle Down the Wind*, at the Aldwych Theatre, was postponed for one night to avoid a potential clash should

England reach the quarter-final on June 30.

Vivienne Gross, clinical director of the Institute of Family Therapy, said the World Cup would cause huge disruption to family life. There would have to be compromises involving children's meal and bed times. Even an innocent telephone call to a friend or family member who is engrossed in a game could cause conflict, said Carole Scheut, a sports psychologist at the University of Durham. Industry and commerce have

been forced to make radical changes. Almost one in three men will take some time off work to watch the World Cup, according to a survey published today by the Institute of Personnel and Development.

Employers in Scotland appear to be more accommodating than those in England, changing shifts, installing televisions and providing food during games. One in five workers in Scotland will be allowed time off to watch World Cup games, compared to 14 per cent in

England. High levels of absenteeism were predicted.

At the North of Scotland Water Authority, which serves 1.1 million customers north of Perth, 300 office workers will be allowed to leave early today.

On British Airways and Virgin flights during crucial games passengers can expect regular World Cup updates.

Railway stations in Scotland will display scores on passenger information boards and at Euston and Victoria, in London, large screens will be installed.

Leading article, page 21

Tartan Army takes Paris in spirited assault

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN PARIS

THE Tartan Army took Paris yesterday. They swarmed over and under the Channel and conquered the city by plundering its supplies and paralysing its transport system. In other words they made a good fist of drinking the bars dry and then brought traffic to a standstill with a variety of high jinks.

There were some Frenchmen who cursed as they sat trapped in jams but most shrugged resignedly at what is only the beginning of a month of cosmopolitan japes in the capital city. The auld alliance is unlikely to be threatened by a bit of traffic chaos caused by men in ginger wigs and kilts.

The Eurostar trains from London yesterday were groaning under the weight of clichéd Jocks straight from cartoon land. The wigs and kilts were complemented by every variety of tartan hat, coat, scarf, tam o'shanter and Scottish football shirt. Face paint was liberally daubed until everyone looked the same, and as the expensive French lager on sale at the buffet began to take effect individuals began wandering up and down the corridors searching for friends who had managed to get lost on a train.

In Paris one of the favourite congregation points was the Auld Alliance pub in the Rue Francois Miron in the Marais. By the afternoon one

might have described the atmosphere as lively. A game of football in the street brought the traffic grinding to a halt. If the Scottish team are as reckless in their tackles as their fans there won't be a player left on the pitch at the end of tonight's curtain raiser against Brazil.

Among the fans were hundreds whose pre-paid tickets to the opening match of the World Cup have failed to materialise. An estimated 640 supporters who bought World Cup packages from travel agents discovered yesterday that their tickets supplied by an American company did not exist.

Alan Watson, 34, a financial advisor from Edinburgh, rejected the full refund offered by his travel agent. "It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Scotland in the opening game of the World Cup against the world champions Brazil," he said. "Even if I don't go to the match, it will be worth going for the atmosphere. I will find a bar with a television. It will be like a giant party."

The only sour note was reports that Ulrika Jonsson, the TV personality had been assaulted by her lover Stan Collymore in the Auld Alliance. The agent for the £7 million Aston Villa striker later said the player wanted to apologise for the "heated incident."



Scottish and Brazilian fans outside a café in Paris yesterday. The two nations play each other in the tournament's opening match today

After God comes football – but not today

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

MILLIONS of Brazilians will embellish their reputation as the world's most passionate footballing nation by taking the day off work to crowd around televisions, dance to samba tunes and cheer on their heroes in the opening game against Scotland today. Shops, banks and schools across

most government ministries will shut down as politicians join the carnival atmosphere. The judiciary has declared that it is in recess until the end of the tournament if "Brazil gets to the final". Even hospitals will operate on reduced shifts.

Brazil has been the dominant force in world soccer since it first won the cup in 1952. It holds the record for the number of wins — four — including the last tournament. "The country will

shut down to watch the boys perform and show all its passion to give support. After God comes football in Brazil," said Pele, who will be commenting on the World Cup for a television station.

A giant screen has been set up in Rio de Janeiro's city centre so that thousands without access to a television can see the game. But 1 million television sets have been sold in the past two weeks. Politicians seeking favour with

their voters in some remote rural states and the villages in the middle of the Amazon rainforest have set up communal televisions.

"Football is the heart and soul of Brazil. For many it's the only source of joy and for all it is a symbol of our nation's identity," said Pedro dos Santos, 18, who took part in a wall-painting competition to dress up an open sewage alley in Brazil's biggest slum.

MPs put on strip show and think of England

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ON THE eve of the World Cup a group of MPs yesterday displayed their own backing for football.

The MPs, members of the House of Commons Clothing and Textile Group, donned a colourful array of British-made World Cup shirts in celebration of the country's sportswear industry. The group's members also hope their stunt will help to highlight concerns about the industry's future.

Phil Woolas, Labour MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, who is chairman of the all-party group, said: "We are wearing the same strips that will be worn by the German, Dutch, Argentinian, Italian, English and Scottish teams."

Sporting a blue and white Argentina shirt, Mr Woolas said: "The success of the British sportswear industry in winning not just orders for England and Scotland strips but also for many other World Cup teams shows what can be achieved in the industry, even when times are hard."

Mr Woolas said he was proud to be wearing the shirt in support of British industry but would be removing his Argentina strip before the World Cup began. "I will be supporting the England side and wish them every success. I hope we see a final between England and Scotland, with England winning on penalties," he said.

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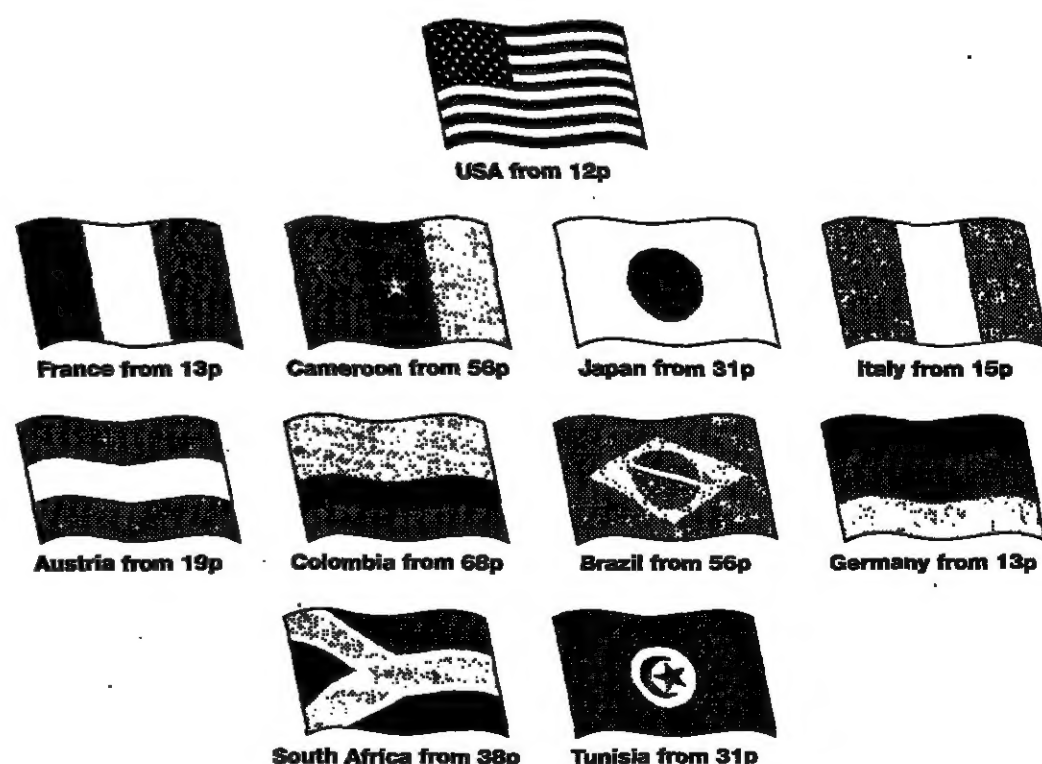
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I'm no saint, but I could still be mayor

JEFFREY ARCHER has given his fullest defence yet to the charges against him of a life filled with blunders, gaffes, falsehoods and exaggerations, as he struggles to prove he is a suitable Conservative candidate for mayor of London.

"Heaven knows I have made mistakes in my life. I am neither genius nor saint," he wrote in yesterday's *London Evening Standard*, replying to an article there nearly three months ago by the journalist Paul Foot headed, "Why this man is unfit to be mayor".

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare rebuts point by point the allegations by Mr Foot but in doing so seems to admit that he has lied in the past, by denying involvement in an alleged shoplifting incident, and claiming he never filled in expense forms for fellow London councillors.

His explanation of the 1994

Fighting to win London's top job, Lord Archer takes on his toughest critic. Dominic Kennedy reports

"insider dealing" row over Anglia Television shares fails to answer why he bought shares in his wife's company, and why he did so on behalf of a Kurdish friend who could have bought them himself. Allegation: claimed he spent two years on a non-existent anatomy course in America. It was really a correspondence course in London. Response: does not reply to this. Allegation: captained the Oxford athletics club when he was not a resident member of the university, as the club's rules insist. Response: none. Allegation: his marriage certificate wrongly describes him

as a "research graduate". Response: the certificate is in the handwriting of Leslie Styler, the Brasenose chaplain. Lord Archer is not sure he saw it at the time. Allegation: filled in expenses for other GLC councillors, keeping 10 per cent of the take. Years later, in a letter to his biographer Michael Crick, he denied filling in expense claims and threatened libel action if Crick continued researching that issue. Response: did help some councillors with expense forms but there was nothing illegal or wrong in this, the sums were minuscule and it

was more than 30 years ago. Allegation: systematically fiddled his expenses as fundraiser of the United Nations Association. When 169 false claims were challenged, he had to repay £150. Response: he raised millions of pounds, travelling the breadth of the country and abroad, incurring hotel and travel expenses but he did not systematically fiddle them. "If I had wanted to be on the 'fiddle' I would have made considerably more than £150." He recalls the discrepancy was £80.

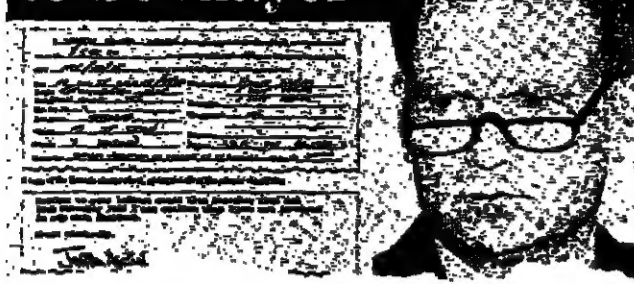
Allegation: he threatened to sue Humphrey Berkeley, then UNA chairman, over allegations of expense-fiddling but dropped the action without an apology before it reached court. Response: they settled out of court because there was no purpose in proceeding, not least because of Berkeley's precarious financial position. Allegation: he was held in Toronto in 1975 on suspicion of shoplifting. An unsigned statement, sent to Paul Foot by a former store employee, says Lord Archer admitted to stealing three suits worth \$540 (£335) without paying and carrying the suits in the way I did would not have amounted to very effective concealment — and I was not arrested, charged, nor did I admit to any theft because I had not stolen anything... If I had been guilty it would have been far easier to give a false name and address." Lord Archer says it was hardly a major incident. He did correspond with Foot.



Lord Archer and his wife, Mary, leaving their London flat yesterday. They also have a home near Cambridge



Why this man is unfit to be mayor



Paul Foot's article in the *London Evening Standard*, to which Lord Archer replied

without paying — carrying the suits in the way I did would not have amounted to very effective concealment — and I was not arrested, charged, nor did I admit to any theft because I had not stolen anything... If I had been guilty it would have been far easier to give a false name and address." Lord Archer says it was hardly a major incident. He did correspond with Foot.

"But perhaps I was wrong here too — I did not feel disposed to give any assistance to a left-wing journalist with a campaign against me, but with hindsight perhaps I should have described to him the entire trivial incident in all its glory. That would, at least, have deprived him of blowing up this non-event." Allegation: the day after a secret merger deal was negoti-

ated between Anglia Television and MAI, Lord Archer bought 25,000 Anglia shares for a Kurdish friend, his wife, Mary, was on the Anglia board. They were sold for a profit of £80,000. Why did he buy them for a friend who had bought shares himself in the past? Why did he buy shares in the company when there was an apparent conflict of interest? Response: he bought

the shares after Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the *Daily Express* Editor, recommended buying shares in small television companies at a dinner party.

Lord Archer insists, however, that he did not receive any information from his wife and draws attention to the fact that he was not charged with insider dealing after an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Race laws may be extended to Shakespeare

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THEATRE and film directors would be barred from casting only white actors in Shakespeare's plays under proposals to change Britain's race laws that are being studied by the Home Office.

Curry houses and Chinese restaurants would also no longer be able to claim that they must hire only Asian employees on the ground that they are essential for authenticity.

The Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday that the changes would greatly expand job opportunities for ethnic minorities in show-business and for white people in the catering industry.

Under exemptions in the 1976 Race Relations Act, it is legal to refuse to employ a person on the ground of race if an employer believes that such discrimination is needed for "authenticity". Actors, artists' models and potential employees in restaurants therefore cannot sue for alleged racial discrimination if they do not get a job.

The commission is also proposing to allow the Race Relations Act to apply to doctors' and solicitors' partnerships with fewer than six partners. This follows complaints from members of ethnic minorities over their failure to get a partnership.

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said: "These exemptions were put in the Act more than 20 years ago. They

are no longer appropriate and cannot be justified."

The commission has sent a paper outlining possible reforms to Jack Straw, "The current criterion of 'authenticity' is too wide," it says. "It enables unjustifiable under-representation of ethnic minorities in theatre, opera, cinema, and television drama to continue indefinitely."

"The new formulation would allow actors to be selected on racial grounds where the race or colour of the character to be portrayed is central to the portrayal — for example to select a black actor to appear in a drama about Nelson Mandela — but would not enable only white actors to be recruited for *Hamlet*."

Other changes proposed include extending race relations legislation to cover people working in the voluntary sector.



No Moor: a blacked-up Olivier playing Othello

Guide dogs given right to roam in restaurants

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RESTAURANTS will no longer be allowed to refuse entry to people with guide dogs, and companies may have to use sign-language interpreters for deaf customers, under rules to be implemented next year.

Alan Howarth, the Minister for Equal Opportunities, said that the measures would be introduced from October 1999 as part of the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Alun Thomas, the Royal National Institute for the Blind's parliamentary officer, said: "We have been waiting for the Government to fulfil its promise, made eight months ago, to announce implementation of Part III of the DDA. We are pleased they have now done so, but are very disappointed at the time it's taken. Disabled people's rights have been delayed."

The new rules will mean that, from next year, businesses based in inaccessible premises will have to take reasonable steps to provide their service by alternative means. This could mean, for example, home visits by hairdressers or chiropodists to people who use wheelchairs.

By 2004, companies and public-sector organisations will have to avoid "physical features" that make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to use a service. The first rights under Part III of the Act came into force in December 1996.

Schools set for start of laptop era

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE first national educational scheme using laptops, which is intended to revolutionise learning for Britain's schoolchildren, is to be announced today.

The Anytime Anywhere Learning (AAL) pilot project will be introduced in September at 27 schools. The use of laptops is expected to spread to all schools in the next century.

The progress of the pupils will be monitored by assessors at Lancaster University and the scheme is being backed by Microsoft and several equipment manufacturers.

From next term, one entire year-group in each school will use laptops to write essays, plot graphs and research topics using the Internet and CD-ROMs. The scheme links in with the Government's Green Paper *Connecting the Learning Society*.

Teachers will spend some of their summer holidays training on the laptops in preparation for the new term.

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Accusations fly over Woodward 'fraud'

Tunku Varadarajan and Russell

Jenkins on sacked US lawyer's anger at defence fund's trustees

THE lawyer sacked by Louise Woodward claimed yesterday that the former au pair's mother was a liar and a fraud. In her first interview since her dismissal last month, Elaine Whitfield Sharp repeated claims that Sue Woodward was guilty of fraudulently using her daughter's defence fund by claiming expenses for the time she spent at the Sharps' home in Massachusetts. Ms Whitfield Sharp insists that Mrs Woodward stayed free of charge.

At the Woodward's home (village of Elton, Cheshire, yesterday, the fund's trustees met to consider the claim for £9,000 and decided unanimously that Mrs Woodward had done nothing wrong.

Speaking at a press conference outside the vicarage in Elton, the Rev Ken Davey, chairman of the fund, said: "The trustees have, since the commencement of their administration of the fund, considered that Sue and Gary Woodward have always acted in an honest and straightforward manner."

"The recent allegations from America, strenuously denied by Mrs Woodward, do not lead the trustees to alter this opinion. At the meeting this morning, the unanimous decision of the trustees was to continue to support Louise and her family."

When she heard the result of the meeting, Ms Whitfield

Sharp said: "It's not nice to be lied about. I can't believe that Susan Woodward says she didn't stay here for free. That is incredible. As for the trustees, it's a bit like the rabbit in Winnie the Pooh — all her friends and relatives are on the trust committee, so what do you expect?"

She said that she and her husband, Dan, also a lawyer, were considering every legal option at their disposal. "Libel is the first one. I think you can expect that we will pursue that vigorously. Also I think we will very probably pursue her



Davey led meeting of fund's trustees

for the misappropriation of our name. They used our name to perpetrate a fraud. We'll pursue this to the end."

Mr Sharp, who initially accused Mrs Woodward of fraud, said the trustees had ducked the issue after Mr Davey declined to answer further questions as to whether the £9,000 invoice had been forged. He said: "They don't deny the invoices are phoney. They don't deny that is Susan Woodward's handwriting. They don't rise to my challenge to produce the cancelled cheque. My message to the trustees is simple: put up or shut up."

Mrs Woodward emerged from her home to read her own statement. "I have heard what Ken Davey has said and I have nothing further to add. I fully endorse what both Ken Davey and Andrew Miller (MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston) have said. 'I have nothing further to add at this time and will make no further comment until the Supreme Court gives its ruling.'"

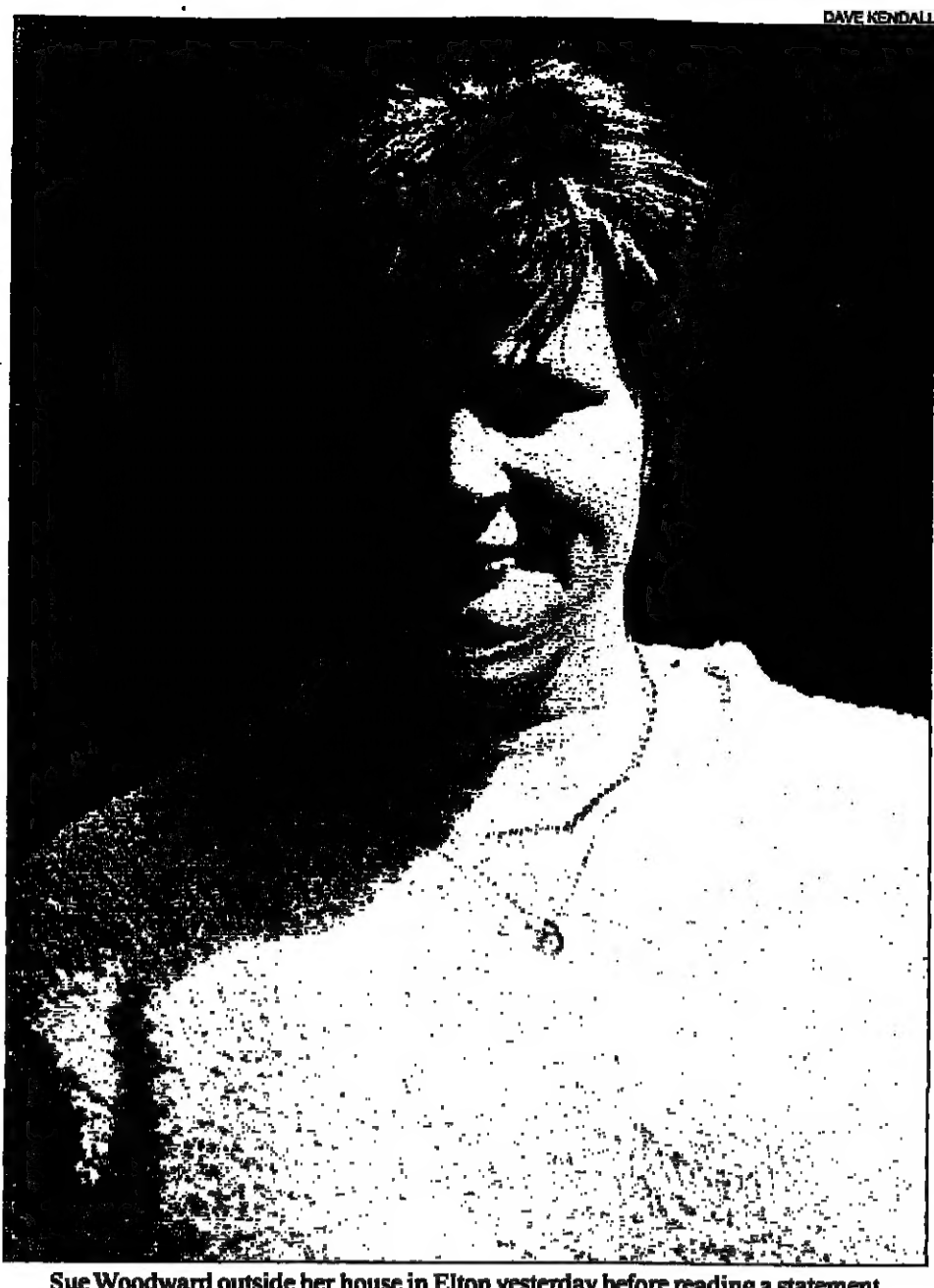
Louise Woodward remains in America awaiting the ruling over her appeal against her conviction for the mar-

slaughter of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen and the prosecution's appeal against the reduction in charge, from murder, to manslaughter.

Mr Sharp said he was sure the controversy would not affect the decision. "The Supreme Judicial Court is not going to be distracted by all this lol-de-rol," he said. "The court is interested in what happened at the trial. The defence team proved beyond any reasonable doubt that Louise Woodward is innocent of any crime. That can't be altered by anything that happens after the trial."

His wife had few kind words for the other defence lawyers in the case, Barry Scheck, Harvey Silverglate and Andrew Good. She said: "The other lawyers haven't stood by me. Why? I will tell you. It's because I developed the medical defence and I was the key attorney. Scheck is supposed to be the wizard, and they don't want people to think that I did the work. These people — Scheck, Silverglate and Good — these people couldn't navigate their way out of a phone booth, forensically speaking."

Ms Whitfield Sharp said that she had no regrets about taking the case. "But I do regret something. What I do regret is that I didn't check out Susan and Gary Woodward more before I let them into my home."



Sue Woodward outside her house in Elton yesterday before reading a statement

Robbers cleared of Briton's murder

FROM CHRIS LOGAN IN CAPE TOWN

THE widow of a Briton murdered in South Africa broke down yesterday after two men were cleared of killing him.

Estelle Gaskell, who had defied fears of reprisals to testify against the men, wept when she was told of the verdicts. "They killed my husband, they took him away from me," she screamed at her mother after being telephoned at home with the news.

Mrs Gaskell, 26, had just told her husband, Stuart, that he was to be a father when a gang raided the lorry hire firm in Cape Town that he managed. They shot him dead as they were leaving. The couple had emigrated to Cape Town from Bacup, Lancashire, a few months earlier.

Yesterday, at the end of a six-day trial, two men were acquitted of the murder but convicted of robbery. They will be sentenced tomorrow. A third man — who had the murder charge against him dropped earlier in the trial — was cleared of robbery.

Mrs Gaskell's mother, Gloria Armistead, said: "Estelle is devastated. She decided not to go to court for the verdicts because she didn't want to be laughed at by these men if they got off. Now she's absolutely heartbroken."

Last September Mrs Gaskell gave birth to a daughter.

M1 lorry 'hero' may face charge

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE lorry driver who was hailed as a hero after fighting to halt an out-of-control juggernaut on the M1 may face a charge of dangerous driving.

Police sources said yesterday that the lorry could have been halted at any time if Michael Rayner, 26, had switched off the engine.

Scotland Yard said that a report by police accident specialists was expected to be passed to the Crown Prosecution Service. A report is also being sent to the Department of Transport.

Mr Rayner called police on his mobile telephone last month to say that he could not cut the speed of his 38-tonne, articulated lorry. He travelled more than 20 miles, with police cars clearing traffic out of his way, and then hit a crash barrier at 70mph.

Later it was reported that he had once been described as suffering from Munchausen's syndrome by proxy, the attention-seeking disorder. Mr Rayner, from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, said that the diagnosis was wrong.

After the crash he said that the lorry would have gone further out of control if he had turned off the engine, but police investigators disagreed. However, they found a defect in the lorry that meant he could not control its speed.

Balloon goes up as joke misfires

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A POPPED party balloon, burst during a practical joke, sparked a major police alert. While Tommy Dixon carried on vacuuming after using the cleaner to burst the balloon and scare his 16-year-old son, marksmen with machineguns sealed off his street, neighbouring homes were evacuated and a spotter aircraft circled overhead.

Mr Dixon, 45, unemployed, had been cleaning his home in Hartlepool on Monday when he decided to chase Tommy Jr, 16, around the house with an inflated balloon attached to the end of a vacuum cleaner pipe.

The balloon imploded. But it was only when an amplified voice outside told him to come out with his hands up that Mr Dixon realised something was amiss. He said yesterday: "I wandered into the street and all I could see was guns pointing at me and neighbours watching me."

He was marched down the street and made to lie face down while he was handcuffed. "I was petrified. Now I'm the talk of the neighbourhood. Being Irish doesn't help."

Police were called by a passer-by who thought she had heard a gun. Mr Dixon, his wife, Yvonne, 38, and their son were released after an hour.

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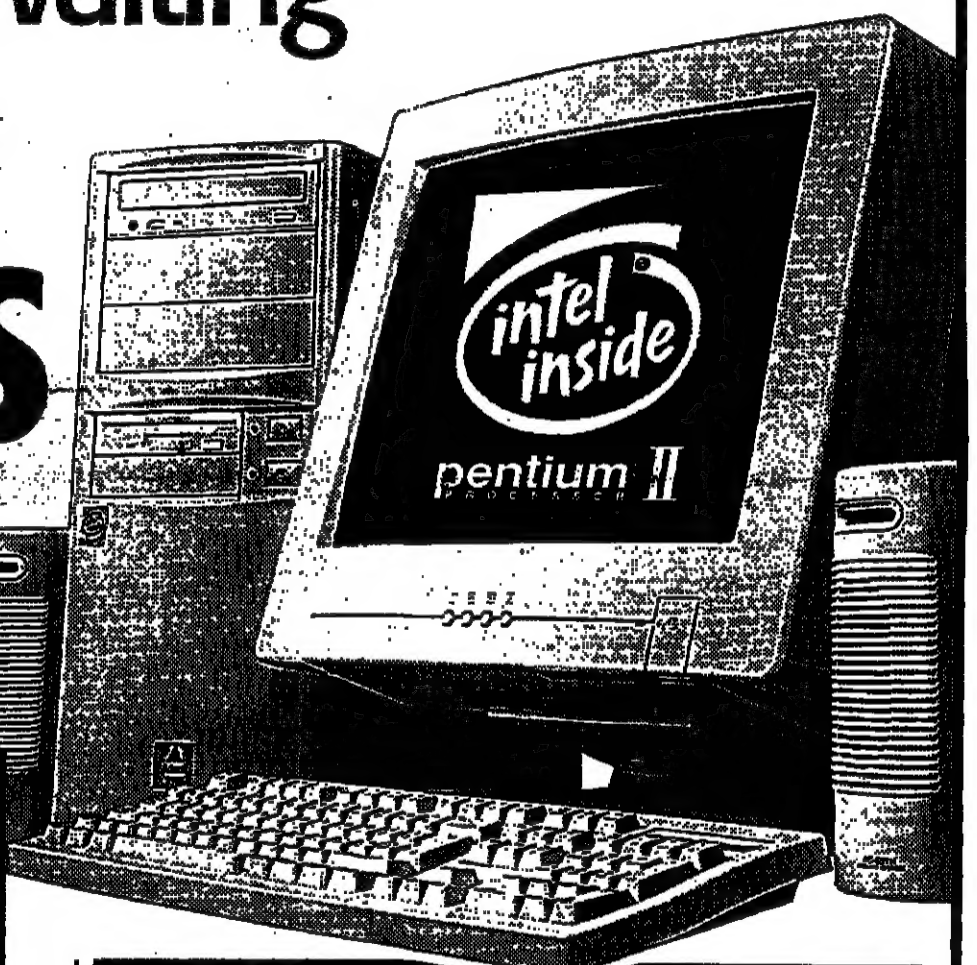
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Girl, 10, died 'as lazy anaesthetist took short cuts'

By MARK HENDERSON

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl needing surgery on her front teeth, which had been broken in a playground fall, died after an anaesthetist failed to use important equipment, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Kate Dougal suffered heart failure after she was treated by Tapas Basu, 59, a consultant anaesthetist, at a dental surgery in Long Eaton, Derbyshire, in January 1996. Dr Basu failed to weigh her or take her blood pressure before administering the anaesthetic, failed to monitor her heart rate with an electrocardiogram (ECG) machine and allowed the operation to proceed even though important equipment was faulty and unuseable, the GMC's professional conduct committee was told.

Dr Basu, who denies serious professional misconduct, was said to have breached three sets of dental anaesthetic guidelines with which he had failed to familiarise himself. He made inadequate attempts to resuscitate the girl, omitting to use a defibrillation machine to restart her heart, the committee was told. He also failed to keep proper contemporaneous notes.

Kate, of Breaston, Derbyshire, was taken by her mother, Patricia, to the surgery immediately after her accident



Basu denies serious professional misconduct

at school on January 17. Her dentist, Mark Duckmanton, said that she would need an operation under general anaesthetic the following day.

The next afternoon Dr Basu asked Miss Dougal questions about her daughter's medical history but did not weigh her or take her blood pressure, the committee was told. Miss Dougal said that Dr Basu asked her to hold Kate's hand while he inserted a drip. "Dr Basu told Kate it would be like a cat scratch, and Kate was talking about her two cats as she went to sleep," she said. Dr Basu asked her to leave the theatre for the 20-minute operation.

He attached the girl to a machine to monitor her pulse and oxygen level, and passed an oxygen tube down her throat. He did not attach her

to the ECG and failed to use a capnograph to monitor carbon dioxide levels. The capnograph was broken, but there was a working one in the surgery's second theatre, which was not in use.

Ten minutes into the operation, Dr Basu noticed that his patient's heart rate had dropped, said Rosalind Foster, counsel for Miss Dougal and Kate's father, Eddie Quinn. The ECG, which was now attached, showed heart failure, but Dr Basu used neither the defibrillator nor adrenalin to restart it.

Mr Duckmanton and the dental surgery's principal, Alexander Gordon, administered manual heart massage. Paramedics were called and tried to start her heart with a defibrillator, but Kate was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. An inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Miss Foster said that Dr Basu worked three days a month at the surgery and usually performed 15 general anaesthetics a day. "You may ask whether this led to short cuts being taken."

He had ignored professional guidelines and the rules of the agency that employed him, Miss Foster said. "These were careless, lazy practices, ignoring accepted standards of care."

The hearing continues.



Kate Dougal needed dental surgery after a fall in her school playground

Doctor asks court to jail ex-colleague

By PETER FOSTER

A DOCTOR asked the High Court yesterday to jail a former colleague, in the latest move during a ten-year legal battle that has cost him his house and his practice.

Malcolm Smith, 42, was awarded £150,000 damages in 1991 against Alanah Houston, who falsely accused him of sexual harassment. The award was reduced on appeal to £50,000, but Dr Smith said yesterday that Dr Houston had paid him only £1,000. He asked the court to jail her for concealing her assets and breaking a series of asset-freezing injunctions.

The legal fees in the case, which began in 1989, total almost £500,000. Dr Houston, 54, declared herself bankrupt when she lost the case with costs of £300,000 against her.

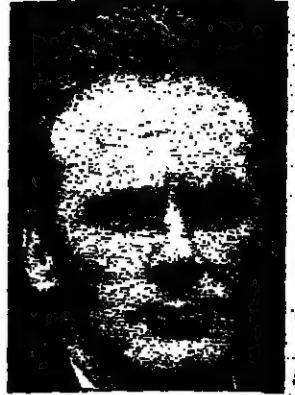
While Dr Houston was discharged from bankruptcy and now works as a police surgeon, Dr Smith has pursued his case through the courts, representing himself to keep costs down.

Yesterday he accused his former partner in a surgery in Northampton of being an "inveterate liar" and waging a vendetta against him. He told Mr Justice Tucker: "Dr Houston has a pathological hatred of me, to the extent that she stops at nothing to bring about my ruin."

"Her whole aim was to remove me from the Hunsbury practice for her own financial and professional benefit. She's a very intelligent and cunning woman; a woman of considerable influence and who is indeed an inveterate liar."

Yesterday's hearing was the latest in a long list of legal actions fought by Dr Smith. He admits he has been ruined by the saga, which has left him with debts of almost £300,000.

Before the hearing he said: "I haven't got any money at



Smith says Houston, below, owes £49,000



all. I've lost my house, I've lost my surgery and my valuable practice. Every penny I had has been paid over to my solicitors. At the moment I have become a full-time litigant-in-person. "I'm living on the charity of my family. I'm living with my father in Chesterfield, who feeds and keeps me. I have bills outstanding that I cannot pay, but none of my creditors has so far issued a bankruptcy petition against me."

Dr Houston, now a family planning doctor in Milton Keynes, who acts as a forensic medical examiner for the police and gives expert evidence at rape and child abuse trials, denied that she hated Dr Smith: "I just think it's all very sad and I pity him. This is all very, very old. It's dead and buried. I've tried to put things behind me and start a new life."

Review clears woman's 'murderer' after 23 years in jail

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN aged 70 who has spent 23 years in jail for murder is expected to be cleared by the Court of Appeal this week and to seek record reparation from the Home Office.

Patrick Nicholls was jailed in 1975 for the murder of Gladys Heath, 74, a family friend found at her home in

Worthing, West Sussex. He has always insisted he found her at the foot of stairs but two pathologists concluded she died of a heart attack after being suffocated and beaten about the face.

A review of the case by Professor John Crane, an Irish state pathologist, has decided that the facial injuries were trivial and were probably caused by the fall, which was

prompted by the heart attack. In a report for the Criminal Cases Review Commission, he said the earlier findings were meaningless and ambiguous. The two pathologists, Dr Hugh Johnson and Professor J.M. Cameron, are both dead.

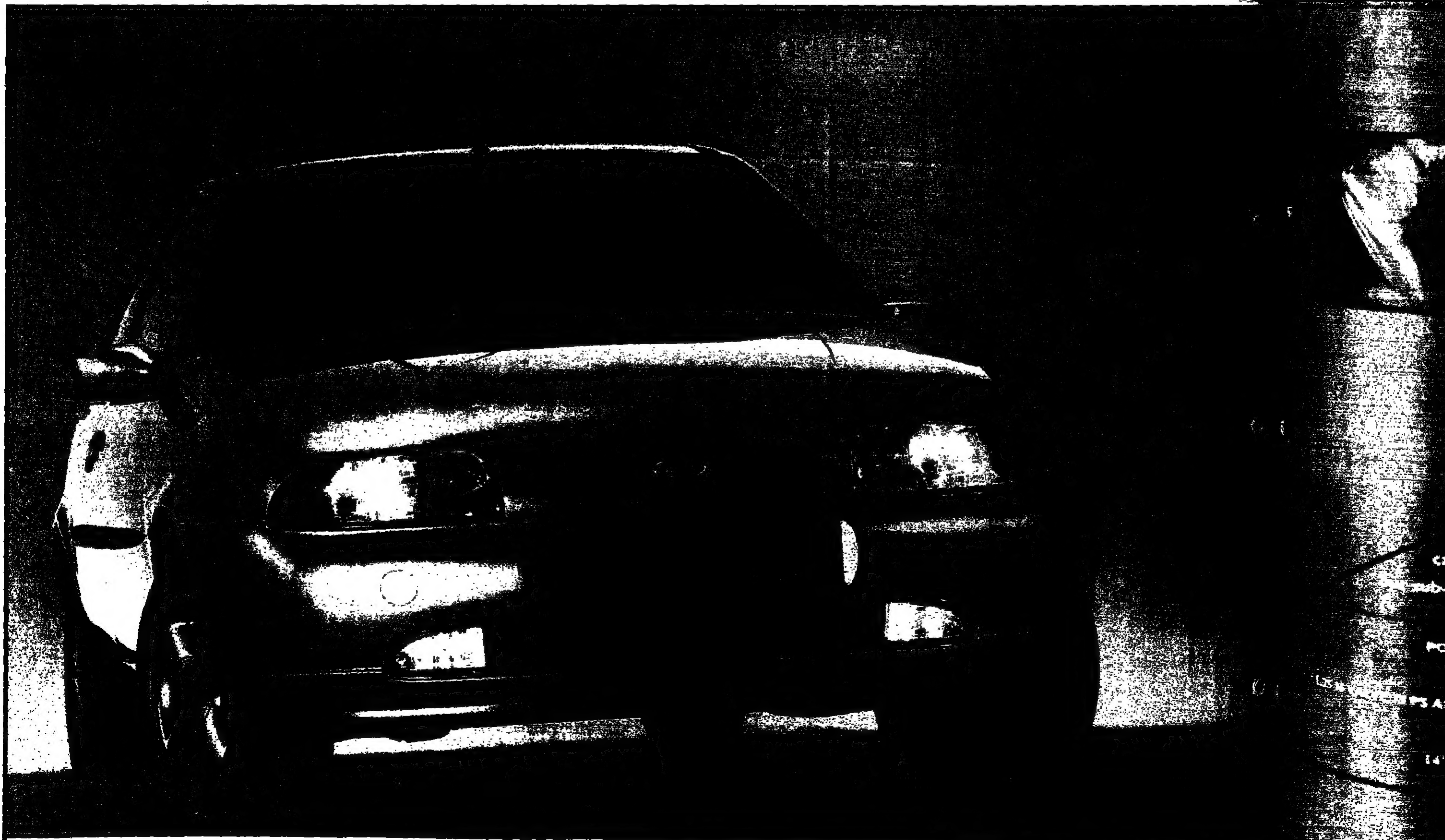
Legal sources said yesterday that the Crown Prosecution Service would not challenge Professor Crane's report and that Mr Nicholls,

who has been on bail since March, is likely to be cleared after a short hearing. Mr Nicholls would have been released many years ago if he had been prepared to show remorse but he always refused to admit guilt.

He said yesterday that he was shaken by events and "a bit taken aback". His common-law wife at the time he was arrested is now dead, as are other members of his family,

although he has a number of children. He has had a stroke and suffers from arthritis.

Legal sources say that if he is cleared he will seek compensation from the Home Office for the longest-running miscarriage of justice. The Birmingham Six served 16 years each and were awarded about £200,000. Mr Nicholls could reasonably expect more.



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Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

Lawrence town wants prodigal son to return

Robin Young on moves to bring writer's ashes home from their crumbling resting place in New Mexico

D.H. LAWRENCE may soon be repatriated, though whether he would be pleased at the thought is at best doubtful. The writer died in 1930 in the South of France but, since 1935, his cremated remains have lain in a concrete block in a shrine in Taos, New Mexico. A move to bring him home to Nottingham has been prompted by dismay in this country that the shrine is crumbling. The University of New Mexico says it can no longer afford to maintain the site.

Rachel Maurer, of the university,

said yesterday: "It is in disrepair and that, to a certain extent, is because it is a case of being out of sight, out of mind. The place where the ashes are is very hard to get to. This is not meant to be a slur on the author or on the people of England, but the fact is that New Mexico is a very poor state and the university is not the richest in the United States. Our first priority has to be teaching on the main campus."

Visitors to the shrine have remarked on its condition.

One message to Lawrence in the visitors' book reads: "Sorry to see you lain here in such a state."

The feeling in Nottingham is that Lawrence's ashes should now be brought back to his home city and placed in a new building within the University of Nottingham, named the Lawrence Pavilion. Graham Chapman, leader of Nottingham City Council, said yesterday: "If they cannot look after the shrine over there, then it would be sensible to bring it back here. It would be nice if we could get the ashes back in time for the inauguration of the pavilion."

Milan Radulovic, a fellow councillor, said that he was horrified by the situation. "The ashes should be brought back to their rightful place. This is where Lawrence was born and spent his formative years, and his major work was from this area. If the Americans cannot afford the upkeep, and if they have any decency, they should give the ashes back to us."

Peter Preston, of the D.H. Lawrence Centre at the University of Nottingham, said: "One would have hoped they would take more care of



The shrine in New Mexico where D.H. Lawrence's ashes have rested since five years after his death in 1930

it. I am writing to say how dismayed I am and to point out what care we in Nottinghamshire take of things connected with Lawrence."

The centre has already acquired the George Lazarus archive of Lawrence's manuscripts and letters, some 1,400 items conservatively valued at £1.5 million. It has also been in negotiation with people in Taos for the return of a series of Lawrence's paintings, which were seized from a London gallery in 1929 after being judged obscene. Lawrence rescued them from the Lord Chamberlain's furnaces only by promising to remove them from the country. They went to Taos, where hotel owners bought them from the estate of Lawrence's widow, Frieda.

Any move to bring the ashes to this country would run counter to her wishes. She bequeathed the remains to the University of New Mexico in 1956. It was because of Lawrence's relationship with Frieda that Nottingham

shunned him for many years. She had formerly been the wife of Ernest Weekley, Lawrence's tutor at what was then University College, Nottingham. Lawrence went to visit the professor in 1912, intending to gather contacts before emigrating to Germany, and ended up running off with his German wife, much to the disgust of many in Nottingham who remained loyal to Weekley.

Any new acquisitions of Lawrence mementoes is quite likely to be funded by a

university appeal for National Lottery funds.

Lawrence was born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, and died in Venice, near Nice, at the age of 44. He and Frieda had lived at Taos, an artists' community, between 1922 and 1925.

Lawrence's body was buried in France, but it was exhumed and cremated and, in 1935, taken to Taos on Frieda's instructions. His ashes were cast into a concrete slab and laid in a chapel-shrine at a hilltop ranch where visitors still pay homage.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extradition move in Guerin case

The Dutch Supreme Court yesterday ordered the extradition to the Irish Republic of Brian Meehan, 32, wanted in connection with the murder two years ago of the crime journalist Veronica Guerin. The court, sitting in The Hague, upheld an earlier directive.

The extradition order will be examined by the Dutch Justice Department before final authority for the extradition is given.

Briton arrested

A British systems analyst has been arrested in Pattaya, Thailand, and charged with making pornographic films and selling them over the Internet. Kim Dabber, 45, from Didcot, Oxfordshire, could face two years in jail.

Rape acquittal

A London taxi driver was cleared of repeatedly raping a 13-year-old girl during a trip to see her idol, the former E17 singer Brian Harvey. Peter Goddard, 40, who admitted indecent assault, was remanded on bail for sentence.

Slaughter arrest

A youth has been arrested in connection with the stoning to death of a sheep at Maidstone, Kent, by four boys and the killing of 60 chickens at a nearby farm. Police said they expected to make further arrests soon.

Laundry death

Ray Washbrook, 26, a laundry worker from Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, died from multiple injuries after becoming trapped inside an industrial tumble dryer, Letchworth Coroner's Court was told.

Electric yarn

A man was hit by lightning that stretched the sleeves of his sweater but left him unharmed. John Morrison's home in Lower Southrepps, Norfolk, was partly destroyed by the two bolts. Experts are baffled by the phenomenon.

HOME SWEET HOME?

Lawrence, whose views of Britain were often disparaging, had scant regard for the university that wants to perpetuate his memory. In a doggerel he wrote:

"In Nottingham, that dismal town
Where I went to school and college,
They've built a new university
For a new dispensation
Of knowledge,
Built it most grand and cakey
Out of the noble loot
Derived from the shrewd
Cash-chemistry
Of good Sir Jesse Boot."



Abused children may lose right to have their own lawyer

By FRANCES GIBB

CHILDREN who are the victims of abuse may lose the right to have their own lawyer in court cases that determine their future.

Under a government shake-up of welfare agencies, draft proposals to go to ministers shortly will look at whether children at the centre of care proceedings always need both a social worker to represent their interests (a guardian *ad litem*) as

well as a lawyer. Both are paid for from public funds.

The proposals to cut the use of lawyers in some proceedings would save millions at a time when the Government is committed to bringing the £1.6 billion legal aid bill under control. In more difficult cases, a child is sometimes represented by a social worker, solicitor, junior barrister and QC.

However, any such proposals would be strongly opposed by

lawyers acting in children's cases, who say that children already at risk could be further jeopardised by courts making wrong decisions about their future.

The proposals are expected to be among options in a consultation paper being drafted by a working party set up after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, voiced the idea of a single agency to represent children's interests. At present several agencies are involved: the family court

welfare service, the guardian *ad litem* service funded by local authorities, and the children's department of the Official Solicitor's Department.

The need for children to have a separate voice in care proceedings was recognised after the death of Maria Colwell, 7, in 1974.

Maria was made the subject of a local authority care order and fostered by her aunt and uncle for five years. While still in local

authority care, she was placed back with her mother and stepfather. Her mother successfully applied to the court to have the care order discharged.

She was subsequently killed by her stepfather and the inquiry found she had suffered serious abuse since returning to the family home.

Hilary Siddle, chairman of the Law Society's family law committee, said: "The inquiry into Maria Colwell's death highlighted the need

for children to have a separate voice to ensure their separate points of view and interests are given sufficient attention."

She said that Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, suggested when in Opposition that it was not necessary to have a solicitor in every child care case, although later he said he was talking about cases where the local authority and the guardian *ad litem* agreed about what should be done.



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Minister accused of misleading House of Lords

James Landale on a new disclosure in the Foreign Office's handling of the Sierra Leone arms affair

ROBIN COOK faced renewed pressure over the arms-to-Africa affair last night when a junior Foreign Office Minister was accused of misleading Parliament over a Customs and Excise investigation into the affair.

The Tories said that the position of Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean was becoming untenable after Britain's most senior diplomat disclosed that she was briefed about the investigation on 10 March, seven weeks before Mr Cook.

Hours after the briefing Lady Symons made no mention of the investigation when she was questioned in the House of Lords about the activities of the British mercenaries Sandline International in Sierra Leone. Two months later on May 11, at the height of the controversy over the arms-to-Africa affair, she virtually denied any knowledge of the Customs investigation until it became public knowledge.

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that Lady Symons may have to resign because of her failure to mention the investigations into Sandline during her appearances in the Lords. "Baroness Symons has, on the face of it, misled the House of Lords. If it is as simple as that, it is a resigning matter. So this has very, very serious implications."

Lady Symons insisted last night that she had not misled



Symons denies any attempt to mislead

the Lords, adding that all her papers on Sierra Leone would be examined by Sir Thomas Legg's independent inquiry into the affair. But she seemed to prepare the way for a climbdown: "If my remarks to the House are shown to have been inaccurate, although made in good faith, I shall of course correct them."

Lady Symons became the third Foreign Office Minister to be dragged into the Sierra Leone affair yesterday when Sir John Kerr, the head of the Diplomatic Service, told an all-party committee of MPs that she was briefed about the Customs investigation on 10 March. MPs were astonished by the disclosure because the Foreign Secretary was not informed until 28 April. Tony Lloyd, the Minister for Africa, was not informed until mid-April even though he spoke in a Commons debate on Sierra Leone on 12 March, two days after Lady Symons's briefing. Sir John said that his office

als had briefed Lady Symons first because they felt she should be prepared for questions in the Lords from Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer. Officials did not brief Mr Lloyd before the Commons debate because they did not feel he would face specialised questioning from MPs.

Sir John faced a hostile reception from the Foreign Affairs Select Committee after he initially refused to answer questions about when Lady Symons was briefed about the Customs investigation. He said he did not want to prejudice the Legg inquiry. But he opened up when senior committee members warned him that he could be in contempt of Parliament.

Sir John Stanley (C, Tonbridge and Malling) warned him that he could not "hide behind" the Legg inquiry because it was not a judicial inquiry.

During heated exchanges, Sir John looked tetchy as MPs from across the political spectrum fired a series of hostile questions at him. He banged the table with his fist, jabbed his finger and pointed his fountain pen at MPs.

The committee went into a private session for the final 30 minutes to question Sir John about intelligence issues. Committee members refused to comment on the closed session, but said they were dismayed by Sir John's performance at the public hearing.



Dynamic duo: the Labour MPs Mark Todd and Denis MacShane yesterday

MPs desperate for a role

By JAMES LANDALE

SOME wore slinky boxer shorts over their suits, others donned World Cup football shirts, and more than a hundred cycled through the centre of London.

MPs were yesterday doing what they do best: making fools of themselves for the cameras to highlight a cause close to their hearts.

Such antics used to be confined to a small minority

of the more extreme publicity seekers, but more and more backbenchers, frustrated by their lack of importance in a chamber with such a large government majority, are turning to stunts and gimmicks to make their mark.

Yesterday about ten MPs cavorted there with individually designed boxer shorts to highlight a campaign against testicular and prostate cancer. Other MPs supported British clothing

manufacturers and National Bike Week.

Last month Michael Hancock (LD, Portsmouth South) spent an hour with four other MPs in a three-foot-high cage to protest against fur farms. He said: "This sort of thing is the visual alternative to the soundbite and MPs have grasped it with relish. It comes down to frustration. Unless you are in the inner Labour Cabinet, you are not going to change anything."

Lib Dems will fight on over press pricing

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats pledged yesterday to press on with their campaign to ban predatory pricing by newspapers after their latest attempt was defeated in the Commons.

The Government used its majority on the committee examining the Competition Bill to overturn a new clause added by the Lords that would have outlawed the practice. The clause was designed to ensure press diversity by preventing newspapers using a dominant market position to eliminate competitors. It was widely seen as being aimed directly at *The Times*, which has increased its circulation from 390,000 to 800,000 since cutting its cover price in 1992.

The *Times* denies engaging in predatory pricing, a view upheld three times by the Office of Fair Trading. Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, argued yesterday that the Bill, designed to bring British competition law in line with Europe, already banned predatory pricing and that the new clause was unnecessary and unworkable. Seventeen Labour MPs voted against the clause, two Liberal Democrats voted for it and the seven Tories abstained.

David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat Trade and Industry spokesman, said that the party would try to table a similar amendment when the Bill returned to the floor of the Commons for its report stage. Although any such attempt would almost certainly be defeated by Labour's massive majority in the Commons, the Liberal Democrats will have a further chance to reintroduce

the clause when the Bill returns to the Lords.

The Government argues that the Bill enshrines into statute the Tetra Pak ruling of the European Court of Justice, which says that any market-dominant company that consistently lowers its price below average variable costs is in breach of the law. But the Liberal Democrats say legal opinion varies on this point and that a "belt-and-braces" clause referring specifically to newspapers is essential.

Mr Chidgey said the clause was designed for all newspapers, adding: "This is not an anti-Murdoch campaign."

Mr McCartney said that the Bill already provided prohibition against abuse of market dominance, adding: "We are clear that it is time to stamp out abusive behaviour including predatory pricing."

But the Liberal Democrat clause would have "serious detrimental effects" on the newspaper industry. By banning legitimate as well as illegitimate competitive campaigns by newspapers, press diversity might be reduced. "Strong newspapers which establish a good circulation by good journalism, and as a result threaten the survival of poorer papers, would fall foul of this prohibition."

John Redwood, the Shadow President of the Board of Trade, also opposed the Liberal Democrat clause but said that he could not support the Government because its Bill was poorly drafted. He said it could be improved to "make it crystal clear that predatory pricing by newspapers is an offence."

Britain may pay dearly for EMU entry delay

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

THE British opt-out from the European single currency has blinded many Westminster politicians to the huge political, as well as economic, commitment made to monetary union by the 11 initial participants. The question is no longer whether EMU will start on time, but, rather, will it work? The Tories are implicitly betting that it won't, while the Government is working on the assumption that it will.

The question is explored in a fascinating new report, *The European Central Bank: Will it Work?*, from the European Communities Select Committee of the House of Lords (a committee incidentally with a balance of three hereditary to eight life peers). The committee heard from all the key players, including both designated presidents of the new Bank, Wim Duisenberg and Jean-Claude Trichet.

There was a revealing divide among the witnesses, between continental optimism and British scepticism. Yves de Silguy, the European Commissioner, said: "I hope it will work. I am sure it will. All the ingredients are there. It depends on the people's will, the ministers' political will." The British witnesses tended to focus more on potential problems and strains.

The committee concludes that the political mood has shifted recently in favour of the goals of monetary and fiscal stability. However, it stresses that central bank independence must not mean isolation from, or indifference to, the real economy, notably by contacts with national central bank governors and finance ministries, as well with business. It urges the new Bank to apply any monetary targets in a flexible manner in pursuit of low inflation.

The committee is optimistic that the European Central Bank can and will do a good job of achieving price stability across the euro zone. It identifies two principal economic dangers — fiscal profligacy (excessive and unjustified budget deficits) and failure to make structural reforms. The first is much reduced by "the prevailing and strengthening culture of stability", though sustained efforts to reduce national debt ratios will be required by some countries.

The greater danger, according to the committee, comes from the possibility of national failure to make essential structural reforms by freeing up labour, product and financial markets. This shifts responsibility to national governments which "in due course, will have to convince their electorates that these reforms are required, with or without the single currency, and will lead to greater economic health and prosperity". That raises precisely the British dilemma.

Is structural reform a precondition for a successful EMU? Or will the tight monetary and fiscal obligations of EMU force countries to adopt structural reform? However, Britain already has more flexible labour, product and financial markets than in most of the rest of Europe, and therefore should be well-placed for EMU.

The most striking feature of the past year has been that EMU will start on time, "the result of a sustained investment of political will by the leaders of the countries involved". That is often under-

rated in Britain. Moreover, "the political and economic costs of failure would be such that we assume an overwhelming political will to make it acceptable and successful." The European Central Bank is an essential element in the operation of the single currency. While the risks are considerable, we do not expect it to be allowed to fail. Nor do Tony Blair or Gordon Brown. The risk they now face is that the decision to delay a referendum, and entry, until after the next election does not necessarily coincide with the best time to enter. Buying time politically may have big costs economically. Just watch what happens to sterling.

PETER RIDDELL

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European warships project 'is a scandal'

Three-nation collaboration running years late, reports Michael Evans

AN £8 BILLION programme to build a common frigate for the navies of Britain, France and Italy is turning into a scandal, according to the editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*.

The Horizon project, begun in 1994, "is proving to be a strong contender for the longest, most expensive and least effective international naval project in history", Captain Richard Sharpe says in a foreword to the latest edition of the publication.

When the three countries agreed to collaborate, it was announced that Britain would buy 12 of the air defence frigates to replace the ageing Type 42 destroyers; France would have four and Italy six. The overall cost, including development, was to be £8 billion and the first frigates were to be delivered by 2002.

Captain Sharpe, a former submarine commander, says Britain is now "cocooned in a rigid collaborative project" with the French and Italians, and as yet "no single shipyard has been given a contract, nor is there any prospect of this happening until after the millennium". The project, which had already slipped two years, was becoming "a scandal".

Defence industry sources supported Captain Sharpe's gloomy judgment on the frigate programme. One source said that the new official in-service date of 2004 was already regarded as unrealistic. "Some people in the industry believe the first frigate will not be delivered until 2006 or even as late as 2010."

Other sources said the Horizon project had survived only because Britain was so pleased to be involved in a collaboration with the French. "Attempts have been made by the Ministry of Defence's Procurement Executive to cancel the project, but the whole

programme is wrapped up in politics," one source said.

Captain Sharpe said: "Politically, collaboration is always seen as good news and bureaucrats everywhere enjoy the opportunities for establishing international relationships." However, it was scandalous because the delays meant that the Royal Navy was having to be deployed to dangerous places in ageing Type 42 destroyers armed with obsolete technology. The Type 42s are equipped with the Sea Dart medium-range anti-aircraft missile, which was obsolete in the 1980s. The Treasury was happy, he said, because "the spending of serious money is constantly delayed".

There are indications that the number of Horizon frigates could be reduced under the strategic defence review. France and Italy, which do not have such an urgent need to replace existing air defence warships, are also expected to cut back on their orders for Horizon.

The Ministry of Defence said the Government was still committed to the programme and insisted that the negotiations for the "project definition" stage were going ahead as planned. A spokesman admitted that the in-service date for the first three warships had slipped to 2004, but said the estimated cost had stayed the same.

The MoD spokesman said there were no splits between Britain, France and Italy. However, Britain was developing a different radar from the other two partners. Moves were also under way to advance to the next stage in resolving the surface-to-air missile issue. The warship is expected to be armed with the Aster missile based on a French/Italian weapon.



Living in the shadow of the bomb: Kenneth McGinley, who yesterday lost his test case against the MOD

Nuclear testing veterans lose case

By Frances Gibb

VETERANS of 1950s Pacific nuclear tests who say their health was ruined by the blasts lost a test case against the Ministry of Defence in the European Court of Human Rights yesterday.

The ruling will come as a blow to 22,000 former servicemen and 1,000 civilians who were hoping a positive result would bring compensation of up to £100,000 each.

Edward Egan, 59, and Kenneth McGinley, 60, both from the Glasgow area, took the Ministry of Defence to the European court, claiming that it withheld documents that could have earned them a pension. They claimed that this amounted to a breach of Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial.

But Judge Rudolf Bernhardt ruled that the ministry had not violated their rights, even though the European Commission on Human Rights ruled in the veterans' favour in 1996.

Mr Egan and Mr Mc-

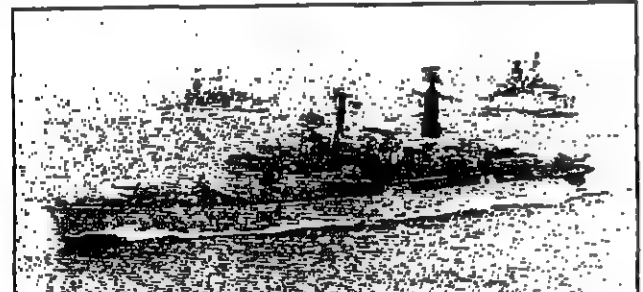


The young McGinley on Christmas Island

Ginley say they were among thousands ordered to line up in the open — with no protection — 20 miles from where an eight-megaton bomb was detonated on Christmas Island in 1957.

Veterans of the blast, who have formed the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association to fight their case, allege they were deliberately exposed to radiation to see how their bodies would react.

Four of the nine judges dissented from the court's findings yesterday, but their objections are not known.



The Type 42 destroyers that need to be replaced

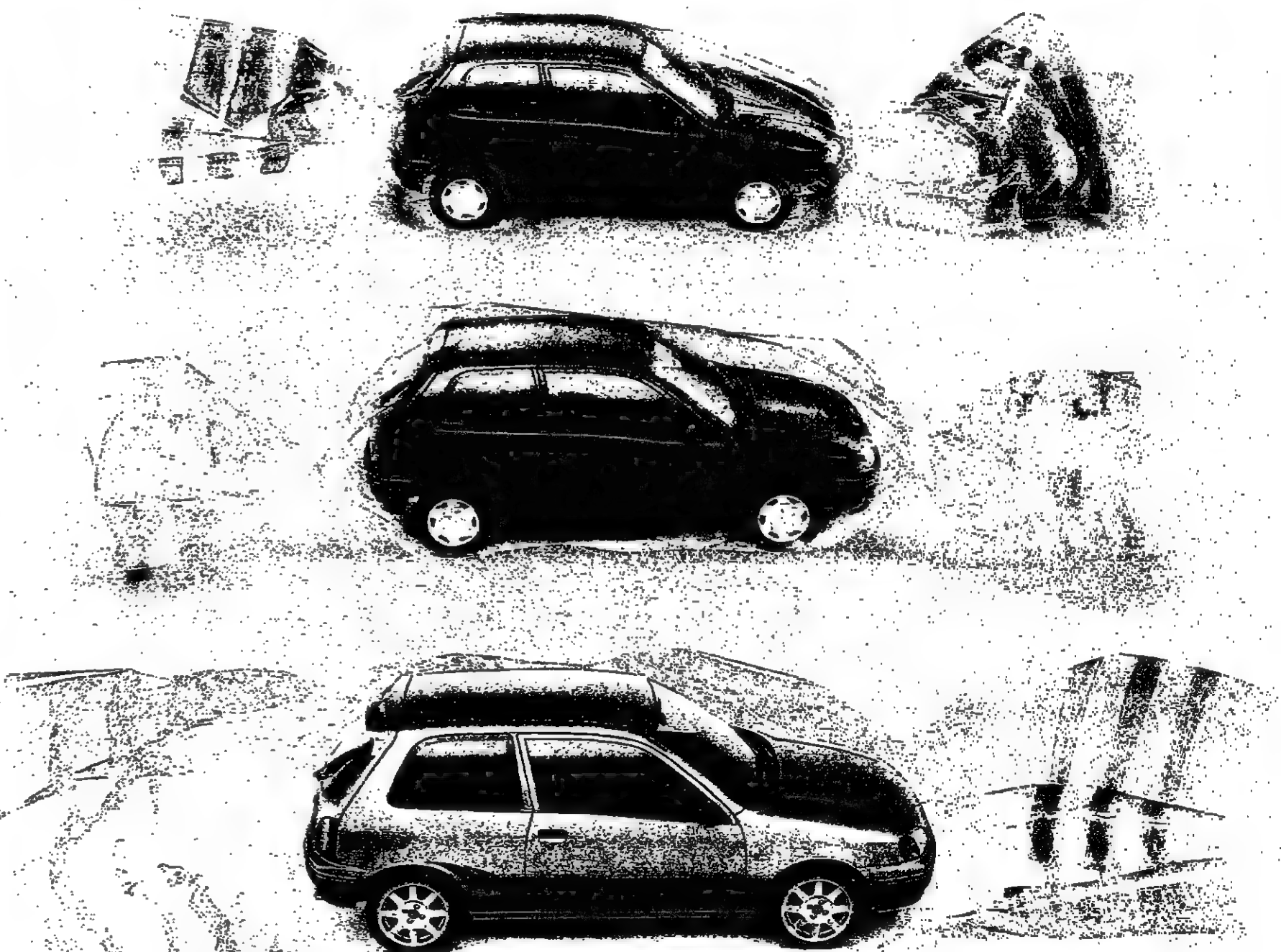
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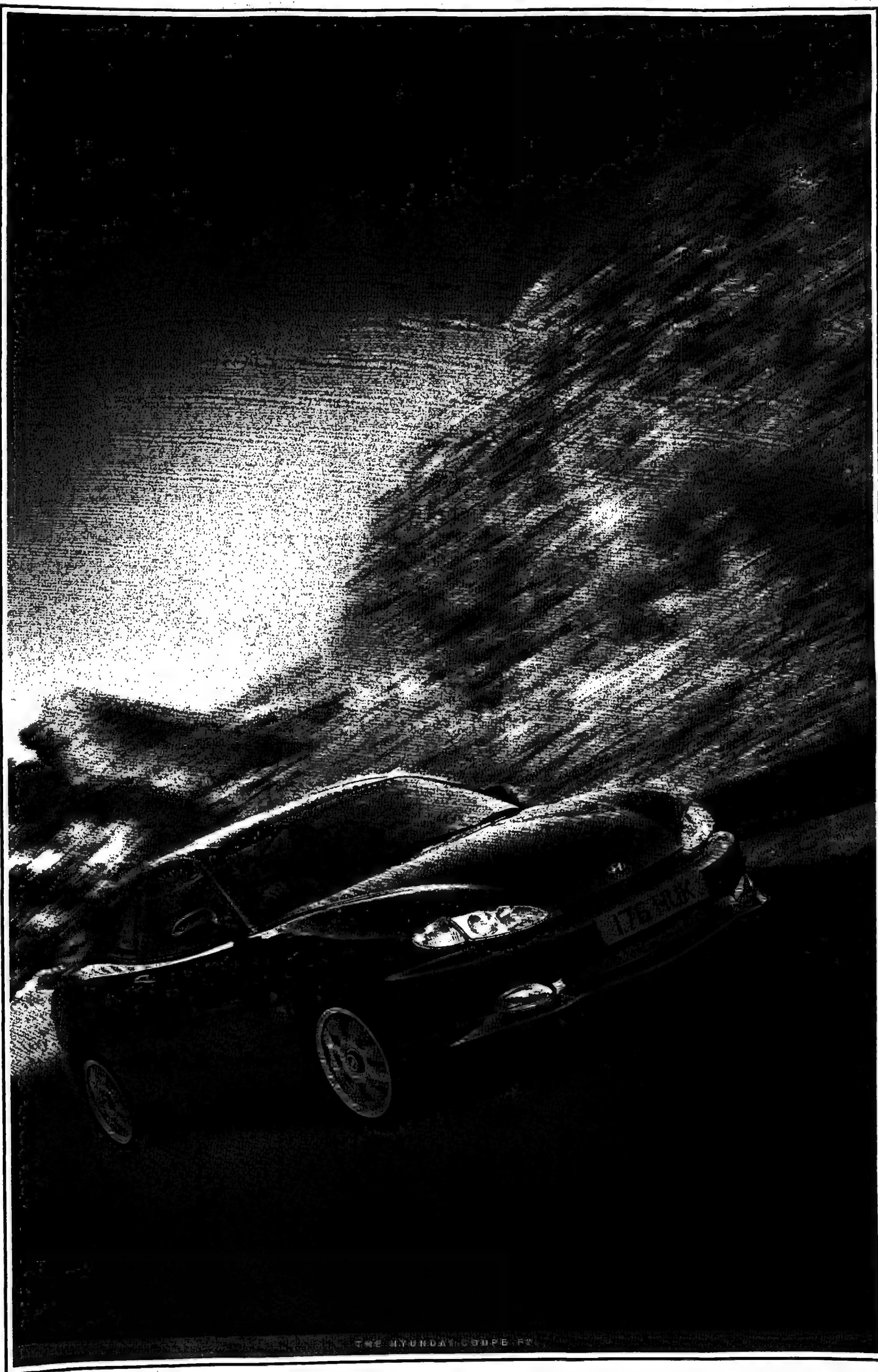
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 2. The second step is to define the problem.
 3. The third step is to analyze the problem.
 4. The fourth step is to develop a solution.
 5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.
 6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.
 7. The seventh step is to monitor the solution.
 8. The eighth step is to maintain the solution.
 9. The ninth step is to improve the solution.
 10. The tenth step is to document the solution.

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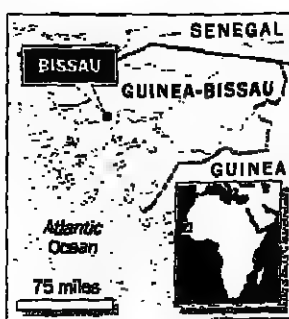
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Guinea flies 400 troops to Bissau

By MICHAEL BINYON

AN ATTEMPTED army rebellion in Guinea-Bissau has left the former Portuguese African colony in turmoil. Senegal has massed troops on the border and 400 troops have been flown in from the neighbouring former French territory of Guinea to help the Government in Bissau.

A US diplomat reported that the 400 troops had arrived at the presidential palace by helicopter to help President Vieira. But the rebels were said to control the airport.

Loyal troops failed to retake a military complex in the capital yesterday. The head of the mutinous troops, General Ansumane Mana, the former army chief, urged Mr Vieira to resign.

The general, sacked six months ago during investigations into arms trafficking with separatists, said he did not seek office himself but wanted a transitional government pending new elections next month. But Fernando Delim Da Silva, the Foreign Minister, stranded in Lisbon after flights were cancelled, called the polls a joke.

Fighting began on Sunday, and continued yesterday in the Bissau suburb of Bra and around army headquarters, with reports of mortars and automatic weapons being used by both sides. At least 30 people were reported killed. The military situation was said to be deadlocked.

The West African country of a million people was settled by the Portuguese in the 15th century and gained independence in 1974. Its people live mainly from fishing and farming, and average incomes are only \$240 (£147) a year. Life expectancy is 45 years. The country is dependent on foreign aid.

Calls for democracy mount as Nigeria gets new ruler

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Commonwealth yesterday called for the release of all political prisoners in Nigeria and insisted that all parties should take part in the August elections.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General and a former Nigerian Foreign Minister, said the Commonwealth was ready to help the country after the death of General Sani Abacha. But he warned the new leadership not to pursue the same policies on democracy and human rights. That would make it harder for Nigeria to return to the Commonwealth, from which it is suspended.

Abacha set his country on a collision course with the 53-nation organisation by not allowing anyone except himself to stand in the elections. Unless the Commonwealth is satisfied that the poll will be fair, Nigeria faces further sanctions and possible expulsion from the Commonwealth.

Chief Anyaoku's call in Harare was echoed across the West as General Abdulsalam Abubakar, Chief of the General Staff, was sworn in to succeed Abacha in Abuja.

The US joined Britain in calling for a "genuine" transition to democratic rule, voicing hopes that the new leadership would make credible the present transition programme. This must include a transparent and open process, free political activity, the release of political prisoners and freedom of the press, the State Department said.

General Abubakar, a quiet, bespectacled career soldier who has never held high political office, has not said if he will be the sole candidate for election in August.

Opposition spokesmen and human rights activists in Nigeria called for the immediate release and installation in office of Chief Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of the last general election in 1993, who was imprisoned after the military coup.

In Lagos and south and west Nigeria, celebrations greeted the news of Abacha's death. There were reports of impromptu parties in some areas, and many expressed joy



Nigeria's new leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, right, with General Sani Abacha in Abuja in March

Abacha plundered oil wealth and led economy to disaster

By MICHAEL DYNNIS

REGARDED as one of the most brutal rulers of Nigeria, General Sani Abacha was also one of the most brazen plunderers of its resources.

A large amount of the \$10 billion (£6.25 million) Nigeria earns every year from the oil industry was systematically siphoned off by Abacha and his network of military and political cronies, whose untrammelled greed is the sole reason for Nigeria's catastrophic economic decline.

Military rulers have always controlled the country's oil trade. Previous leaders had the wisdom to distribute a percentage of the proceeds to

supporters, but Abacha's military regime sought sole ownership of Nigeria's mineral wealth.

Big international companies such as Shell, Mobil, Texaco and Chevron pumped out most of the oil, but the largest single share went to the Nigerian state oil company. This was then sold on to world traders under Abacha's personal direction.

Working from Aso Rock, his fortified presidential villa in Abuja, Abacha and his entourage tapped into every stage of oil extraction, processing and marketing in a naked bid for personal enrichment. They solicited bribes from foreign companies in

return for licences to prospect for oil in the Niger River delta and basin, and offshore. They received bribes from construction firms that won contracts for drilling rigs and pipelines, and they personally supervised the sale of every contract for Nigerian crude, raking off huge commissions.

Abacha and his benchmark raided the budgets of the state-owned refineries — an act that crippled the refineries and created the paradox of petrol shortages in the oil-rich country. Nigeria was forced to import petrol.

Since the 1970s, diplomats calculate that Nigerian leaders have siphoned away a staggering £136 billion.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ecstasy targeted at foes of apartheid

Cape Town: The apartheid military establishment made vast quantities of the drug Ecstasy to incapacitate its enemies as part of its chemical warfare programme, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been told.

Johan Koekemoer, an organic chemist, informed a special hearing here that experiments were also carried out on the use of Mandrax, cannabis and the nerve gas BZ, but he was unclear whether large amounts of these drugs were ever produced. Mr Koekemoer, who was recruited to the South African military's chemical and biological warfare programme in 1986, said he had made 2,000lb of Ecstasy. (AP)

Olive branch to East Timor

Jakarta: President Habibie of Indonesia said he was prepared to grant special status within Indonesia to East Timor, in a bid to find a solution to the conflict in the disputed territory, the BBC reported. But East Timorese activists said that President Habibie's gesture was not enough for them to end their long-running guerrilla war. Nevertheless, Dr Habibie's comments appear to be a significant change in policy towards East Timor. (AP)

Pope's East bloc expert dies

Rome: Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, right, the former Vatican Secretary of State and the Pope's right-hand man and "foreign minister" for more than a decade, has died aged 83. Mgr Casaroli, an Eastern Europe expert, was behind the Catholic Church's rapprochement with the former Communist Eastern bloc, winning concessions from Marxist states that had persecuted the Church. (Reuters)



Obituary, page 23

Manila U-turn on Imelda

Manila: The Philippines Government asked the Supreme Court to uphold a 12-year jail term for the former dictator's widow, Imelda Marcos (Abby Tan writes). Last week the Solicitor-General, Romeo de la Cruz, filed an application to acquit her on the ground she was wrongly convicted. President Ramos sacked him after public uproar and told the Justice Secretary, Silvestre Bello, to withdraw the petition.

Film star whale may go free



Reykjavik: A three-tonne killer whale, Keiko, left, which starred in the film *Free Willy* about a captive whale's release into the wild, could itself return to its native waters off Iceland. A delegation from the US Free Willy Keiko Foundation was due to visit Iceland to meet David Oddsson, the Prime Minister, who supports the idea of returning the 14-year-old whale, currently in a Mexican amusement park, to the wild. (Reuters)

Swiss to vote on car ban

Berne: Swiss voters are to be asked whether cars should be banned from their country's roads on four Sundays a year. Private motor vehicles would be banned between 4am and midnight on the days in question but public transport would continue to operate. Under Swiss law, proposals that gather 100,000 signatures are voted on in a referendum. (AP)

India changes tack and offers peace talks

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

INDIA has offered to establish a "stable structure of co-operation" with Pakistan and open a fresh dialogue in the search for peace — the first glimmer of hope in weeks that the two old enemies might be ready to defuse dangerous cross-border tensions after both sides exploded nuclear devices.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister,

told the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of parliament) that India's interests lay in a secure and prosperous Pakistan: a sentiment that reflects fears across the party spectrum that social and political chaos in the Islamic state could spread to India. Pakistan's rhetoric is still hostile, but India has decided it is time to change tack, at least in its public statements. Mr Vajpayee urged the resumption of direct talks between the two countries "at the

earliest" and, significantly, did not rule out the issue of Kashmir being part of the discussion agenda.

That does not imply any inclination to change Kashmir policy; it does, however, make it politically possible for the Pakistan to enter such talks. But it may not immediately be in the mood to do so, after accusing Delhi of setting off a number of recent bombs that killed large numbers of people.

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Kohl astounds allies with new Eurosceptic rhetoric to woo voters

German election fever has led to a change of heart, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, is astounding friends and critics alike by shifting gear on Europe, turning his anger on the European Commission for blocking many favoured German projects, questioning subsidies and unsettling the already restless farmers.

Tony Blair, who saw the German leader yesterday, is the latest European politician to be bewildered by this sudden change of heart in one of the most energetic champions of integration.

The simple explanation is, of course, that Herr Kohl has an

election to win in September. Since the great majority of Germans oppose the euro, he has to compensate by demonstrating toughness elsewhere.

There is, in fact, nothing new about German feuding with the Commission — postwar economics minister Ludwig Erhard was at loggerheads with Brussels over the balance between market and planned economy, while in the

same post, Count Otto Lambsdorff was a bitter opponent of European steel subsidies.

The difference is that the German position was always clearly defined in terms of a battle for free markets against the protectionist, subsidised competition from France and southern Europe. Now Herr Kohl is fighting in the national interest for subsidies and handouts. Bonn is pitted against

Brussels on at least seven issues:

- The Government opposes European Union restrictions on tobacco advertising.
- It is going to defy a European Court ruling applying internal market rules to the German health system.
- The Finance Ministry is spearheading a campaign against what it claims are extravagantly high net contributions to the EU budget.
- Bonn rejects almost every aspect of the Commission's Agenda 2000 proposals for farm reform.
- The Chancellor recently promised

south German farmers that there would be no changes.

- The Government is struggling against European nature protection directives which are being used by ecological protesters to hold up the building of new motorways and railway lines.
- Competition Commissioner Karel van Miert, Bonn's particular bugbear, is still at odds with German authorities about the use of investment aid to help to construct a Volkswagen factory in Saxony. Other European subsidies to east German concerns have been questioned by Brussels.

□ The Chancellor reportedly exploded with rage when he heard that Brussels — Mr van Miert again — had stopped the pay-TV plans of the Bertelsmann and Kirch concern. Television mogul Leo Kirch is a friend of the Chancellor.

The Chancellor's supporters argue that the Bonn line is a legitimate protest against an over-regulating Commission. "How can we modernise the country successfully when we are hindered in this way?" asks an official. Yet many of the Bonn directives were inspired by Germany in the first place.

nature protection directives, for example. The aim was that investment conditions in southern Europe or Ireland would have to face the same minimum standards as in Germany. Now Bonn is rebelling against the Commission with almost Thatcherite zeal.

The result is confusion, not only for Mr Blair as he seeks to prepare a harmonious European summit in Cardiff next week. Aspiring EU members from Central Europe who have always looked to Germany as their champion are now beginning to wonder where Bonn stands on enlargement.

Blair endorses plan to curb Brussels power

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday endorsed a Franco-German push for next week's European Union summit to pave the way for curbs on the EU's centralised powers. He said Britain favoured proposals for a new Maastricht-type conference to reform the Union's internal machinery before enlargement to include some of the former Communist bloc.

On a European tour to prepare for the Cardiff meeting, Mr Blair also described last month's Brussels summit on monetary union, which he chaired, as "a mess" and also said Britons should adopt a more mature and self-confident approach towards the EU. The Prime Minister re-

viewed the latest proposals for EU reform from President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, in visits yesterday to Paris and Bonn as well as to Brussels and Luxembourg. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and other senior Conservatives claimed that the joint approach in a letter from the Continent's two big powers, which spoke of the aim of deeper union, amounted to an attempt to foist a Franco-German agenda on the EU.

Mr Howard said it was an attempt to hijack the agenda. "There is an air of 'we are the big boys. We are going to

decide what will be discussed, and you had better listen to us little boy Blair. We are the big boys because we run Europe'."

Mr Howard seized on the joint letter's statement that "in some areas a larger measure of integration is urgently necessary" as an attempt to push forward M Chirac's and Herr Kohl's vision of political union.

The Netherlands and other smaller EU states have also attacked the letter as a way of curbing their own powers in the EU, while French and German commentators have played it down as an attempt by Herr Kohl to play to German anti-Brussels feeling before elections in September.

Mr Blair depicted the Bonn-Paris initiative as a recognition of a long-held British view that the EU had become remote from its citizens and needed to devolve some decision-making away from Brussels.

"It's an indication of the flavour of the future in the European debate," the Prime Minister said after talks in Brussels with Jean-Luc Dehaene, his Belgian counterpart. The Kohl-Chirac ideas on trimming the powers of Brussels would "sound like a radical rethink" if they had come from other quarters, he said. Their approach reflected an emerging European con-

sensus that Britain had helped to inspire, he said.

Mr Blair said he shared the widespread view in the EU on the need soon for a new inter-governmental conference to reshape the Commission and the decision-making procedures in the law-making Council of Ministers. These issues had been left unfinished at the Amsterdam summit last year and "the sooner we resolve that the better". The support of all states would be needed, he added. Mr Howard said the Kohl-Chirac letter contained no specific proposals on "subsidiarity".

Mr Blair's tour this month

of the other 14 EU capitals is seen as an attempt to pave the way for a smooth summit after the bumpy Brussels gathering to launch the euro and the European Central Bank (ECB). The Prime Minister said that summit had been his toughest moment in the presidency, but he rejected the accusations that he had been unprepared for handling the French-inspired dispute over the ECB. He had achieved the best possible deal, he said. "It was a short-term mess with a long-term solution."

Mr Blair said "Cardiff will be the ultimate test" for the British presidency. "If we have

a successful summit, we will have had a successful presidency."

His stress on Cardiff reflects the Government's desire to close its presidency on a high note after mixed reviews for its performance in the six-month EU chair. With no big decisions on the Cardiff agenda, the leaders will take stock of progress on budgetary and other reforms and review their drive to boost employment.

Some friction is expected when Herr Kohl presses German demands for a promise of a cut in Bonn's contributions to the EU budget.

Reviewing his record over

Europe, Mr Blair hailed a new EU consensus on the need for market-based economic reform and for bringing the unpopular institutions of the EU closer to the people — both central themes of his presidency.

"The central problem is the remoteness that individuals in the nation-states feel for the institutions of Europe," he said. The Union did, however, need deeper co-operation in some areas, such as crime-fighting, the environment and foreign policy. It also needed a strong Commission to police its common policies and the single market.

After the meeting, Mr Duisenberg highlighted some good news on inflation. "The tendency towards inflation in Europe has been dampened."

The ECB's six-member executive board was joined yesterday by the 11 national central bank presidents.



Mr Blair and Herr Kohl at the Chancellery in Bonn yesterday during the Prime Minister's tour of Europe

The euro guardians get down to work

FROM DEBORAH COLLYITT IN FRANKFURT

THE members of the bank that will hold the European Union purse strings from January 1, 1999, held their first council meeting yesterday.

The European Central Bank's (ECB) policy-making body, which will make key decisions affecting nearly 300 million people, met in its headquarters in Frankfurt but without a great deal of celebration. The six-strong team, led by the president, Wim Duisenberg, who was elected amid bitter in-fighting between Germany and France over the post, has started working closely together, completing its management structure.

Based at the now defunct European Monetary Institute, the ECB, with a starting capital of 4 billion euros (£2.7 billion), officially came to life on June 1, but has so far made little impression on economic policy. Aware of the time pressure, council members want to move quickly towards a decision on policy tools which will secure the bank's credibility in the run-up to monetary union.

"We won't get a feeling of how they will steer monetary policy," said Jürgen Pfister, head of economic research at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

After the meeting, Mr Duisenberg highlighted some good news on inflation. "The tendency towards inflation in Europe has been dampened."

The ECB's six-member executive board was joined yesterday by the 11 national central bank presidents.

AIM IS NOT TO BUILD EUROPEAN STATE

Extracts from the Kohl-Chirac letter

Dear Mr President [Tony Blair]

... At the Cardiff European Council, it appears important to us to start an open and objective debate on the current state of the process of European integration and its outlook; it is a question of developing the political Union in harmony with Economic and Monetary Union in the context of the forthcoming enlargement.

... The aim of European policy has never been, and cannot be, the construction of a central European state. All our efforts must be aimed at creating a Union that is strong and capable of action while safeguarding the diversity of its political, cultural and regional traditions.

It is appropriate to guarantee that, in the Europe of the future, decisions are taken as close as possible to the citizen.

Italy mulls warning labels on wine

By RICHARD OWEN

TO THE dismay of those who believe a glass or two of red wine a day keeps the doctor at bay, Italian bottles of wine and other alcohol will in future have to bear a health warning similar to those on cigarette packets, under a

draft law that was published yesterday.

Furious wine-growers said the move was "an unwelcome intrusion of the Puritan ethic" into the traditional Mediterranean way of life. Wine drinking has long been part of the Italian lifestyle. It is rare to see Italians drunk, since the

loss of control involved means a loss of all-important image, or *la bella figura*.

Italian and French medical experts claim that red wine "cleans the arteries and reduces cholesterol levels". But Rosy Bindi, the Health Minister, said there was growing alcoholism in Italy and that she wanted to reduce consumption by 25 per cent.

Health officials said it was not yet clear how the Italian plan to put health warnings on wine labels would conform with European Union regulations. "We are looking into this," one official said. The new law, at present being discussed in committee in parliament, would also reduce the amount of advertising of alcohol allowed on television, with a total ban between 4pm and 7pm.

Sales of wine and spirits would be forbidden at motorway service stations between 10pm and 6am and spirits would be banned at places of work such as factories and offices. The wording on the wine label would read "Warning: alcohol seriously damages health".

Il Messaggero, the Rome daily, called the move "a grave blow to the tradition of Bacchus".

Ezio Rivella, head of

Castello Banfi in Tuscany, which produces Brunello — one of Italy's most noted red wines — said the proposed law was "another example of baleful American influence. The Americans have a Calvinist culture, whereas we have been making wine in Italy for 6,000 years. Everyone knows if you drink too much it does not do you much good, but we do not need interfering officials to tell us that. They are acting like the ayatollahs of Iran."

Giovanni Piuari, one of the main wine producers in the northern Friuli region, said that instead of carrying a health warning "the label should say how good wine is for you".

Franco Maria Ricci, editor of *Il Sommelier Italiano*, a leading wine magazine, said the proposed restrictions were absurd. "A health warning on the label is not going to stop people drinking too much if they want to. If we must have a message on the label, let it encourage people to drink well and in moderation."

According to official statistics, the average Italian drinks 53.1 litres of wine a year, 25 litres of beer and nearly 2 litres of spirits. A million Italians are classed as alcoholics.

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Russian official held for tax-dodging plot

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

THE head of Russia's central statistical committee has been arrested on suspicion of organising a huge fraud to help several big companies to avoid paying taxes, a government spokesman announced yesterday. The spokesman said a search of the home of the official, Yuri Yurkov, had uncovered more than \$1 million (£613,000) in cash.

The Prosecutor-General's office told Interfax news agency last night that Mr Yurkov had issued a statement after his arrest on Monday, expressing his willingness to confess to embezzlement and bribe-taking. His first deputy, Valeri Dalin, and Boris Saakian, director of the committee's computer centre, were also detained, along with a number of other officials.

The companies involved in the scandal have not been named, but it is understood that Mr Yurkov and the others have been accused of organising a scheme to falsify results to enable the companies to pay substantially less tax.

The arrests come after a year-long investigation by the federal security service, which



Yurkov: \$1 million in cash found at his home

is understood to have implicated a group of more than 20 people in the central statistical service, suspected of large-scale embezzlement over the last four years.

The Government's continuing failure to collect tax revenues is seen as the main cause of its poor economic performance, with a yawning budget deficit, arrears in public-sector wage payments and shaky investor confidence. A new tax code, designed to

streamline the system and make it more compatible with a market economy, has long been held up in the State Duma, where it faces strong opposition from the Communists and their allies.

In the wake of last month's economic crisis, when the Central Bank briefly raised interest rates to 150 per cent to restore confidence in the plummeting stock market and defend the rouble, President Yeltsin appointed Boris Fyodorov, the former Finance Minister, as new head of the tax service. He was told to shake up the service and end a long practice of tax evasion.

Mr Fyodorov announced yesterday that he was sacking a number of senior tax officials on suspicion of corruption. He also announced plans to create a new Ministry of Revenues that would bring together the federal tax service, the tax police and the currency and export supervision service, which currently function as separate agencies.

He said a new system of tax declaration would be introduced for top earners, to enable authorities to scrutinise their incomes more closely.

In the short term, Russia appears to have weathered the

crisis, with the rouble holding relatively firm and investors encouraged by a successful treasury bill auction last week. The Central Bank felt confident enough to bring interest rates down to 60 per cent, relieving some of the pressure on the Government.

But much still depends on the attitude of the West. During his talks with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in Bonn this week, Mr Yeltsin has been determined to play down Russia's reliance on foreign support.

But economists agree that, despite repeated assurances that Russia is capable of dealing with its own problems, the main aim of Mr Yeltsin's trip would have been to secure German support for an international stand-by fund to promote investor confidence. Last night it appeared that he had succeeded.

The tough words of Mr Fyodorov, coupled with the arrest of Mr Yurkov and his associates, would have helped demonstrate Russia's determination to grapple with high-level corruption. Yet it shows how entrenched the problem is and the magnitude of the task of putting Russia's economic house in order.

Blonde confronts the 'Black Widow'



Paola Franchi arrives at court to testify yesterday



Reggiani: said she wished Gucci dead

Gucci's women in court drama

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE two women in the life of Maurizio Gucci, the late fashion dynasty heir, yesterday confronted each other for the first time in the Milan court where five people — including Patricia Reggiani, his former wife — are on trial for murder.

Signora Reggiani, 50, who spoke for the first time since the trial began a month ago, refused to react when Paola Franchi, 46, who became Gucci's mistress after the marriage broke up, took the stand. Signora Reggiani, who is accused of conspiring to have her former husband killed, sat impassively a few yards away.

Signora Reggiani, once noted in Milan society for her luxurious and glamorous lifestyle, wore no make-up and had her hair tied back. Signora Franchi, by contrast, appeared poised and elegant in a cool, beige linen suit. "It was the battle of the brunette and the blonde," Italian television said. Signora Franchi told the court that Signora Reggiani, who was married to Gucci for 12 years, had come to hate him. She said after the divorce the "Black Widow" (as the Italian press has dubbed her) had done all she could to poison his new relationship.

Signora Reggiani claimed that on the morning of her arrest in January last year she had told the police it was true she had expressed the wish "to see my husband dead", but she was sorry she had said it. She said two of her fellow accused — Pina Aureliemma, her clairvoyant, and Ivano Savioni, a night porter, had interpreted her wish without consulting her.

Vatican killer's mother alleges cover-up

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE mother of the Swiss Guardsman who a month ago apparently murdered the corps commander and his wife and then committed suicide, said yesterday she believed the Vatican was lying and that her son was killed and "framed".

Muguette Baudat-Tornay, who lives near Martigny, in Switzerland, insisted that her son, Vice-Corporal Cedric Tornay, 23, was not the real murderer, and accused the Vatican of masterminding a "cover-up".

Her claims, in the Rome daily *Il Messaggero*, brought the killings back into the spotlight despite Vatican attempts to put the episode behind it. A week ago, a 46-year-old Swiss army officer, Colonel Pius Segnuelier, was appointed to head the Swiss Guard.

Colonel Estermann, 44, and his Venezuelan wife Gladys, were found shot in their Vatican apartment on the evening of May 4. Tornay's body was nearby. According to the official Vatican version of events, Tornay felt persecuted by Estermann and killed the couple before turning his revolver on himself.

In his suicide note, Tornay said it was "they who forced me to do what I am about to do... I have to render this service to the Corps and the Catholic Church." He added: "Mama, I hope you will forgive me for what I've done... I'm sorry to leave you on your own, but my duty is clear."

But Madame Baudat-Tornay said the letter did not ring true. "I think my son was murdered," she said. She said that according to the post mortem examination, the killings took place "between half past eight and nine in the evening. But I know that Cedric was with friends at that time."

Madame Baudat-Tornay said there were other questions, including the fate of her son's mobile phone, given to him by his confessor, a priest whom her son called shortly before the deaths. "What time did he make the call, and what happened to the phone?" she asked.

She also told *Le Matin* of Lausanne that her son's alleged suicide note was addressed to her in her married name, whereas he always used her maiden name. It had the length of his service with the Guards wrong by a month — "he was meticulous about such matters" — and was not written on the paper he habitually used. She said she was organising handwriting tests.

Pecking order puts Latin lovers in peril

BY RICHARD OWEN



A kiss on the cheek could land you in jail, Italian judges say

THE Court of Cassation, Italy's highest appeal court, yesterday ruled that a kiss on the cheek amounts to a sexual offence punishable by a prison sentence of up to seven years, if the assailant keeps hold of the object of his affections against her will or is aiming his unwanted attentions at an erogenous zone, such as the mouth.

Sexual etiquette has become a legal and social minefield in the land of the Latin lover, with Italian men no longer sure whether their traditional macho behaviour is acceptable. Two years ago the Court of Cassation overturned a Sardinian man's 16-month prison sentence for sexual harassment after he had kissed a female office colleague on the neck. The court ruled that a kiss on the neck was "not the same as a lustful kiss on the lips in a clear display of desire and intoxication", and that cheeks and necks were not erogenous zones.

But yesterday the court refined its thinking when asked to rule on a separate case in Naples, in which a 65-

year-old man had landed a kiss on a young woman's cheek. "A woman's cheek is not an erogenous zone as such, but kissing it without the consent of the party involved — especially if the man holds or restrains her by the arm or hand — has the characteristics of a sexual act," the appeal judges said. They were ruling on an appeal by the Naples man, who last September was found guilty by a local court of "acts of libidinous violence" because, in trying to kiss a young woman he did not know on the lips, he "restrained her against her will". He succeeded in kissing her on the cheek only because she turned away.

The girl brought a complaint, and the Naples court found her admirer — or assailant — guilty of sexual violence. Yesterday the Court of Cassation upheld the ruling, declaring that "what matters is not just the kiss but the intention of the kisser". It laid down that the offence was punishable by a jail sentence of between one and seven years.

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

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THE TIMES

Australia opens up to 'pom' power

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

MORE than two centuries after Captain Cook set foot on Australian soil, the English this week finally got around to forming their own club.

After all, the Scots, the Welsh, the Italians, the Greeks, the Vietnamese, the Chinese and almost every migrant group under the fierce Australian sun has one.

On Monday — a public holiday to mark the Queen's birthday — about 150 "poms" gathered at a Sydney hotel for the official launch of "The English in Australia (TEA)".

They sipped their "English" tea, nibbled on cucumber sandwiches and tucked into plates of scones coated with clotted cream.

More than 870,000 people born in England now live in Australia, which is almost as many as the next five biggest migrant groups combined.

TEA is the brainchild of Claire Haines, 30, who emigrated to Australia from Devon seven years ago.

"So many immigrant groups openly celebrate their cultural heritage, yet the English disappear into the wallpaper," she said.

Mrs Haines is no ardent royalist, and her view on whether Australia should become a republic is a blunt — "I don't give a monkey's" — although she accepts it is inevitable.

Instead she wants the English in Australia to have fun and share the memories of the land they left. There are even plans for Wimbledon Parties and FA Cup Final nights.

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Mixed training for U force under f

Sky-high Ch seeks to rise its towering

Mixed sex training for US forces under fire

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WILLIAM Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, caused a storm of conservative protest in the United States yesterday after he endorsed mixed sex training in the armed forces over the strong objections of Congress.

Less than two years after drill sergeants were charged with sexual misconduct at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the Army's advanced training base in Maryland, Mr Cohen refused to segregate male and female recruits in the military.

Roscoe Bartlett, a Maryland Republican, accused Mr Cohen of abdicating to the demands of "political correctness" rather than military readiness.

The decision also contradicted a special commission appointed by Mr Cohen which concluded that mixed sex training had contributed to sliding military standards. The panel, led by former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker, said recruits should be separated until all basic courses were finished.

Congress, which is considering ending the policy altogether, has already passed a Bill in the House of Representatives that would require single-sex barracks and platoons in boot camp. The Senate is expected to debate the issue this month.

Critics trace the deterioration to a decision by the Army and Navy to integrate boot camp, the rigorous training programme inspired by the Marines. The Marine Corps maintains segregated training units.

Because of the change in 1993, instructors were said to have lowered their standards to ensure women passed muster. Mr Cohen, who said it was not possible to run the military without women, has demanded that the three services now place more emphasis on core military values during the first weeks of basic training.

The Baker commission had recommended that separate barracks would improve discipline, but the Defence Secretary said he preferred unisex living quarters that contained physical barriers.

The same-barracks policy has been blamed for promoting sexual relations between recruits just as they are supposed to be transformed from civilians to disciplined soldiers. However, the three services have balked at spending millions on new buildings.

Mr Bartlett and other members of Congress are planning legislation that would create totally separate barracks. "If you look at the Marine Corps whose motto is separate sex training, they don't have scandals like Aberdeen that the other services have had," he said.

Mr Cohen, the only Republican in the Clinton Cabinet, said his decision was made after long consultations with many military officers.

"This is not some politically correct measure that is being imposed from the top down," he said. "I find it somewhat incredulous to think that someone like the chairman of the Joint Chiefs... would feel they had to be politically correct if they're going to sacrifice lives or our country's interests."

□ Seoul: The US-led United Nations Command and North Korea have agreed to revive a military channel of communication for the first time in seven years, a move that could lead to an easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula. It allows general-level officers of both sides to discuss "armistice-related issues". (AP)



A storm victim loses his footing in Hong Kong as more than 15in of rain fell in 17 hours, causing chaos. One man was missing yesterday after jumping into a storm drain in an attempt to save three boys. Two brothers among them were in hospital and the other was unhurt. The heavy rain disrupted travel and some villages were cut off.

Baptist legions storm Mormons' Utah stronghold

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

IN A missionary drive of biblical proportions, the footsoldiers of the Southern Baptist Convention have ventured into the heart of Mormon country to challenge the fastest growing faith in America.

The Southern Baptists, an umbrella organisation with more than 15 million members, have earned rebuke and bemusement in equal measure by deciding to hold their annual convention in the city where 152 years ago the leader of the Mormon pioneers stopped his wagon train and said: "This is the place."

The religion was founded in 1830 by a charismatic preacher named Joseph Smith. Half of Salt Lake City's residents and 90 per cent of Utahns outside the state capital are Mormons who believe Jesus was merely one in a line of prophets. Such views make Mormons, in Baptists' eyes, a "counterfeit cult" and prime targets for conversion.

By last Sunday, two days before the convention's start, the visitors claimed to have

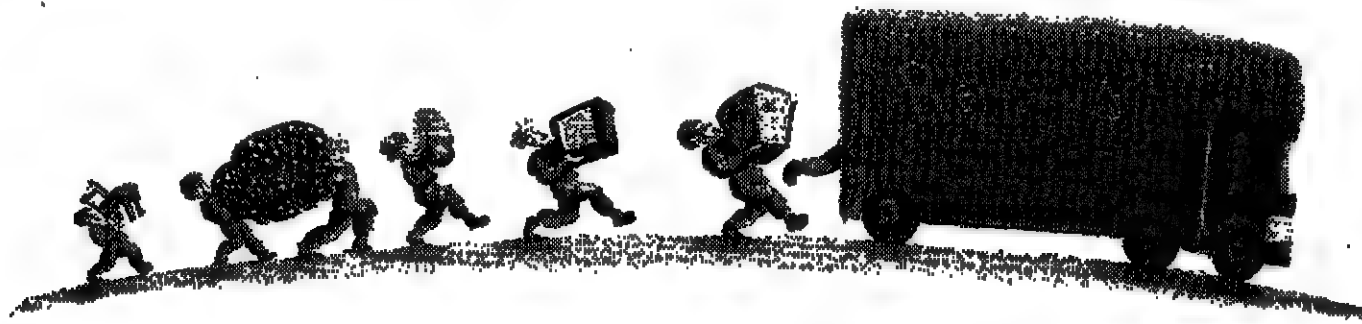
knocked on 9,000 doors and made 500 conversions. They spent \$600,000 (£375,000) on advertisements promoting Christ as mankind's true saviour, and printed 12,500 copies of a book called *Mormonism Unmasked*.

Mormon elders have reacted calmly, and with good reason. Their own missionary efforts currently yield 318,000 converts a year, all of whom tithe their income to the 10 million-strong church.

To minimise confrontation the Baptist rank and file in Salt Lake City have been given crash courses in Mormon theology and advice on how to engage their de facto hosts in non-aggressive discussion. They are also distributing the New Testament in the King James version — the Mormons' favourite.

Billboards in Salt Lake City invite drivers to call 1 800 JESUS 2000. Those who bother are greeted by a recording: "If you would like to speak with someone about a personal relationship with Jesus, press 3."

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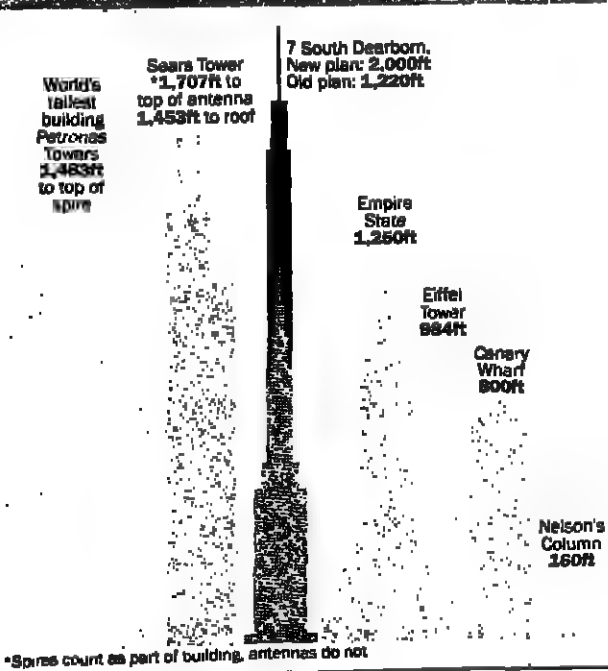
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PROPOSING THE WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING



Sky-high Chicago seeks to rise above its towering rivals

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE city of Chicago could soon be the home of the world's tallest building again, after a local property developer announced plans to erect a 2,000ft office block.

Doing his bit for civic pride, wounded badly two years ago when Chicago's title for the world's tallest skyscraper was snatched away by Kuala Lumpur, Scott Toberman, the president of the European American Realty Co, has revealed the blueprint for his new building at the intersection of Dearborn and Madison Streets.

Until 1996 Chicago's Sears Tower, at 1,450ft, dwarfed every other man-made structure in the world. That was the year that the Malaysians, flexing tigerish Asian muscle, put up the Petronas Twin Towers, which were ruled to be taller at 1,483ft. The Empire State Building in New York, the eminence grise of skyscrapers, is a mere 1,250ft tall.

Mr Toberman had planned originally to build a tower measuring 1,220ft. But, according to *The Chicago Tribune* newspaper, he later changed his mind and went for a bigger and bolder idea. Why go to the trouble of putting up a gargantuan office block, he reasoned, if it was not going to end up in first place?

The new building, to be christened Dearborn Tower, will cost between \$275 million (£169 million) and \$300 million. It will have 70 storeys, 850,000sq ft of office space, 200 condominiums, and a towering antenna. The latter will be used by Chicago's major television stations to broadcast high-definition digital transmissions at the same time as they emit signals for analogue programming.

The existing high-rise antennae capacity, provided by the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Centre, is reported to be exhausted.

Mr Toberman's project will also include more than 1,000 parking places, and would be built on a site of about 42,000sq ft.

BritPop in the jury room

When Charlotte Kane was chosen to be a juror, she was bewildered by the experience

You lucky thing! my friend exclaimed as I read my jury summons and stuffed it angrily into my bag. This was a terrible punishment, and I hadn't even done anything wrong. I mean, fine if you have a salaried job and need a change — it works out cheaper than a fortnight's holiday — but there I was, on the threshold of several burgeoning careers (unemployed) and this was going to wreck my routine (none).

The first Monday morning was hard work — the last time I got up at seven was when I was taking a long-haul flight somewhere. Once at the courthouse, the airport similarities persisted: two long queues had formed and were barely moving. I buried myself in my paper at the other end of the room, but there was an air of excitement that made it impossible to concentrate. What would it be like? Who would we meet? Would there be a swimming pool?

We had been warned about the waiting around so it was not too unbearable, especially when my name was read out FIRST. Yes! I had been picked for the first case! I, who have never won a raffle in my life. And yes! Liam Gallagher (or his close relation) had also been picked. Excellent. In fact, looking around at my fellow jurors, we could have been at a BritPop party. Wish I had been wearing something a bit funkier. Then we were being whisked off to the courtroom, an unromantic pine and neon concoction. There, the judge shuffled our 14 names; only the 12 he read out would sit in on the case. I got through.

As we jostled past each other and settled happily into our places, the atmosphere was almost hysterical. Suddenly, I caught sight of the most sobering of faces and was yanked back to reality. So that must be the defendant, that terrified-looking man. He was innocent, clearly. No wonder he looked so frightened, he was about to be tried by a bunch of giggling youths with hangovers. The prosecution read out the charges: indecent assault. A shiver ran down my spine — a rapist! And I had been duped by a facial expression. Why try him at all — he was obviously guilty. The prosecutor read on. The charge was minor, nothing more than a fondle, really.

The main witness was then called to the stand. And yes, it really was like in the films. First she was sworn in. What a quaint, ineffectual ritual. I wondered whether there had ever been a murderer who, on taking the oath,



Persuasive arguments: "truth" comes down to a handful of opinions vociferously expressed about an event whose facts can, at best, only be guessed at

had broken down, sobbing: "I can't lie! I did it!" The barristers were articulate and theatrical, particularly the one for the defence, whose cross-examination verged on the brutal: "I put it to you, Madam, that you're making this whole story up." He had been haranguing her with questions on the tiniest details: "Once again, I ask you, Madam, was the defendant standing to the right or left of the dustbin according to photograph 3, exhibit 1, as you entered the premises on the second occasion?" and finally her admittedly unreliable memory deserted her.

But what did that prove? If someone buckles under the pressure, does it mean they have been telling fibs? Is truth necessarily upheld by strength of character?

I am one of those people who generally goes with the argument that is being put to them. During the first half of the case I sided with the prosecution but, as soon as the defence witnesses took the stand, I found myself unable to doubt them. This order of events was the same in every case and struck me as biased towards the defendant. Plus, the barrister for the defence in the first case was charming; he

often caught our eyes and smiled. (I swear he winked once.) By the end of the case, three days and several good-character witnesses later, I could barely recall the girl who had pointed her finger at this pillar of society. I took my new opinion with me into the deliberation room.

There, two surprises awaited: not only were we not unanimous in our conviction of this man's innocence, but those of us who did believe him were in a tiny minority; and the sandwich menu was uninspiring — and expensive. Now that the prospect of days of

hard discussion faced us, involving nights in lonely hotel rooms (none of us was sure about the rules), surely a tray of something decent to eat wasn't too much to ask. The court usher left us to our complaints and — I could hardly believe it — locked us in. What if one of us fainted from malnutrition? Distracted by this poor show of hospitality, the conversation took an inevitable turn: "Oh, you're in TV, I'm trying to get a job in TV," and telephone numbers were exchanged. I was aware of a small group diligently trying to define "beyond reasonable doubt",

but on the whole it was "Wait! Change my cheese and tomato for a tuna mayonnaise." that rang across the room. And it was in our supposedly responsible hands that a man's future was about to be weighed up.

We elected as foreman the young man with the loud voice, who eventually cut through this pandemonium. The facts in our case were simple but not conclusive; it was her word against his. Each one of us had a hunch, and the noisy ones would wield the most influence. The foreman was on my side. It was in the bag.

It was quite something to watch the defendant receive his "not guilty" verdict. No smile, just a drop of the shoulders, a step back and then forward to the gallery where his wife was sitting. She — a quiet, dignified presence throughout the hearing — finally dissolved into tears as he held her. Did he do it? All that we could be certain of is that he and his family had, deservedly or not, suffered.

The remainder of my two weeks was spent in a state of perpetual disappointment. List after list of jurors was read out and I was not on them. This could not have been random; the judge who presided at the first case must not have realised that I listen best with my eyes closed of an afternoon, and had a word with someone.

So I phoned all my friends, read every daily publication and, in desperation, moved into the stinky smoking room, where all the "fun" was to be had — a nail-biting round of Twenty Questions. The chainsmoker in the corner was clearly a genius and I could not answer a single one, which annoyed me further.

I did get chosen for one more case, involving forgery. The very word filled me with fear: no doubt it would be one of those complex money cases, whose impossible details take weeks to unravel. I was amused to see the same restlessness in everybody's eyes. But we need not have worried. It turned out that the case, which took three years to get to court, did not stand up. After an hour the judge directed us to acquit the defendant and we were released.

Justice, in the Crown Court, seems to be frighteningly arbitrary — when it comes to giving a verdict, one feels that the judge is simply delegating his responsibility in case of error, and goodness knows, there have been errors. The jocular atmosphere created by 12 untrained LA Law-watchers, who have been let off work for two weeks, straining at the leash, seems hardly appropriate for the enormous task of meting out judgement.

And what of the poor juror who is the last to convert? The sight of 11 staring, sighing faces is bound to upset the staunchest believer. In that first case, we reached a unanimous verdict after three hours, but at least two jurors were less than happy with it. "Truth", in these matters, comes down to a handful of opinions vociferously expressed about an event whose facts can, at best, only be guessed at.

Sports Supporter Nicky Clarke



Coming soon to a screen near you, the curse of e-mail

Having been given my own e-mail address at *The Times* recently, I checked my in-box for the umpteenth time one day and was delighted to find mail waiting.

I opened it and was treated to three seconds of film in which a man hurled himself at the back end of a horse and appeared to park his head deep in the beast's rear. It was a clever illusion, one might say a sleight of hand, but it was, nevertheless, an astonishing sight that caused much mirth in the office.

Not long afterwards I opened an even more eye-popping missive. A woman who looked very much like the *Boywatch* actress Pamela Anderson was performing what an American arresting officer would refer to as a lewd act if he had stumbled across it taking place in Hugh Grant's car. The film ran for 20 seconds while I blushed and looked around nervously before dispatching the mail to the safety of cyberspace.

These were some of the more exciting offerings in what has become a burgeoning stream of ingenious and sometimes bizarre e-mails. Dancing babies, countless jokes and a 2,000-word rant about Manchester United have all found their way on to my screen. All will be familiar to some readers. They are just a few of the thousands of circulars dreamt up and passed from one e-mailer to another with the speed and success that traditional postal chain letters never achieved.

I, too, have been busy sending e-mails. For someone who has never been a prodigious letter writer, and who invariably carries those few he does write in his briefcase for three weeks before buying a stamp, this new means of communication has been a revelation.

The exchange of information for work is much more convenient than faxing, and glancing at an e-mail is less tedious than endless rambling phone calls from persistent bores. And although, of course, none of us ever makes personal calls from work, if we had to, in an emergency, say, electronic chat would be so much more time-efficient.

The office miracle of electronic mail is turning into a nightmare, says Damian Whitworth

However, not everyone is convinced that e-mail is such an excellent workplace tool. One senior executive with a British-based multinational believes that reliance on e-mail hinders the efficiency of his business.

"One of the positive things about e-mail is that with time differences it is great to be able to send a message overnight and walk back in the office the next morning and have a reply waiting," he says. "The

far-flung corner of the corporation about the cancellation of aerobics or a lost comb can be quickly zapped. My daily e-mailing can be timed in minutes.

Others, however, are busier. One London firm recently disciplined four people for e-mail abuse. One was sacked for using the system to deal in drugs; another was found to be spending what amounted to a full day every week gossiping with friends. In the ever-



Some say too much e-mail can take over your working life

downside is that people tend to use e-mail to offload problems. They think if they have sent an e-mail they have solved the problem, but they have just passed it on. Everybody sends messages but nobody answers."

There is another danger: e-mail can take over your life. Friends in America, who are old hands at new technology, warned me of the threat long ago. While we all proudly put our e-mail addresses on our business cards, convinced that we are at the cutting edge, they are removing theirs, fed up with the barrage of junk mail, exasperated by dancing babies and daily rants from every lunatic with whom they have ever been misguided enough to exchange addresses. The cyber-bores are becoming a scourge over here, too.

Personally, though, the occasional bit of horseplay and the odd lunatic are still novel enough to be tolerated. And the tedious internal and irrelevant memoranda from some

TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

changing language of cyberspace, junk e-mails are called "spam" and the process of sending them is known as "spamming". A new piece of research by Novell, the software company, identifies a range of varieties of spam, all unappealing.

Advertisers, in particular, have found that e-mail is as effective as pushing literature through your letter box at home, and those selling everything from baldness cures and get-rich-quick schemes to houses and religious salvation

are getting in on the act and invading our computers. It is, undoubtedly, frustrating, having to deal with such unsolicited junk every day, and Novell calls the furious e-mails that recipients send in return "flame-mails". The report goes on to head a list of "guidelines for dealing with spam" with a plea not to send flame-mails because "this could provoke spam wars".

Unfortunately, when the junk is personal it can get sinister. Cyber-stalking may again sound unnecessarily dramatic, but it is clearly an increasing problem.

Sarah, a 26-year-old working for a large retail company, received anonymous e-mails of an increasingly lewd nature, which started with "show us your knickers" and went on to the more frightening "look out of the window, I'm watching you". Eventually, when she threatened to call in the police, she received the chilling sign-off: "Thanks for ruining everything... goodbye."

To avoid e-mail harassment, Novell suggests that users become discriminating about who they give their address to, and that they avoid leaving an address in chat groups — or questionable websites.

Unfortunately, this is unlikely to do you any good. I have never knowingly passed on my address to religious nuts but, while writing this piece, I received some mail from a sect who address me "dear friend and supporter".

At the end of five screens of excitable stuff it says that this will be the first of a weekly newsletter about setting up the kingdom of heaven on earth. I feel like replying that it will be heaven only if it has no e-mail. But that would be asking for trouble.

WORLD COVER

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Why Madam Speaker so loves her water bed

A passionate and outspoken book revealing her fulfilling sex life has made a star of the woman now tipped to be Finland's next president. Interview by Alan Tiller

Thank you for that wonderful weekend, for all the love and pleasure you gave me, the fabulous moments. The water bed was marvellous — it did not squeak. And what tidal waves there were when we made love.

On weekdays, the author of these lines sits, almost regally, as Speaker of the Finnish parliament in a splendid art deco building in the centre of Helsinki. She is Finland's second-ranking person after President Ahtisaari and, say many observers, is poised to take over from him.

Remarkably, Riitta Uosukainen's status has been enhanced by frank revelations in her bestselling book, *The Fluttering Tongue of Flame*, about her happy sex life during 36 years of marriage. The collection of outspoken letters to politicians, personalities and members of her circle — "those I hate and those I love" — has aroused a passionate reaction.

By tradition, Finnish politicians are supposed to be as dignified as the local Lutheran pastor. But Finns, particularly women, have welcomed Mrs Uosukainen's book as a breath of fresh air in a society that has shed much of its public shyness and begun to blossom with the collapse of Communism in neighbouring Russia.

The book's water-bed reference is in a chapter written in the form of a passionate and poetic love letter to her husband, Toivo, a retired lieutenant-colonel in the Finnish Army. "Take me and I will tremble. You do this. I'd prefer to cry out. You are an officer and gentleman, a royal-blue archer, the sun of my life. You know how to be tender and savage, strong and respectful. You know to make me come. I still feel your presence inside me," Mrs Uosukainen writes.

As befits a Speaker, Mrs Uosukainen has been a stickler for parliamentary rules over the past five years. She banished breastfeeding MPs to the parliament's cafeteria and sent home an MP who turned up in shorts during a rare heat wave. She tolerated a young left-wing MP who, in an act of defiance, insisted on wearing a beret. "I had him take it off, looked at his ugly head and said he could keep his beret," she says.

Considering her public role, it is easy to see why Finland's political classes professed outrage over the Conservative Speaker's slim book, which has sold 70,000 hardback copies, little short of phenomenal in a country of only five million people.

'What tidal waves there were when we made love'

"Populist nonsense," muttered Paavo Lipponen, the Prime Minister. Esko Aho, the former Prime Minister, added: "If this kind of book is admired, then I'll leave politics."

Mrs Uosukainen is dismissive of such reactions. "Political journalists who don't like me thought they could kill me off when the book came out." Clearly, they did not succeed.

A statuesque woman of 56, with the bearing and almost the voice of the leading Finnish diva, she sits in her large wood-paneled office dressed in a peach-coloured suit. Portraits of stern predecessors, all men, look down from the walls. "My boyfriends," she laughs.

Before her election as Finland's first female Speaker, some accused her of being overexcitable. She puts this down to her early childhood in Karelia in eastern Finland, the area annexed by the Russians after the Second World War, where she says the people are livelier "because there is more sun".

When reminded of one Finnish journalist's description of her as an "unguided ballistic missile", she roars with laughter that echoes

along parliamentary corridors. "Why have only one flight path?" she answers before heading off to open the day's business in the 200-member chamber. On her way, she touches every pillar in the Speaker's corridor, a typically tactile gesture. The success of *The Fluttering Tongue of Flame* led to book-signing tours to the remotest corners of her country. Her charisma came across strongly. "People touched me, thinking they would gain some extra power," she says.

Her bubbling good sense is charged with magnetism, a combination that has propelled her in the opinion polls from a popular politician, remembered as a competent Education Minister, to star status. Today she is almost neck and neck with President Ahtisaari, having 48.5 per cent of the vote against his 51.5 per cent.

Yet she is coy, when asked whether she will run for the presidency in 2000. "I want to live," she quips. "When things are good in bed, then they are good in general. I really believe this and I am so sorry that all women do not experience this joy although they have a man, or several, in their lives."

Did she write the book to promote a run for the top job, which traditionally involves negotiating with the Big Bear next door? She has strong feelings about her neighbour, for she was one of 400,000 Karelians who fled the region in 1945, leaving an empty land for the incoming Russians. But she says no. Her publishers wanted a collection of her speeches. Although she has won speaking awards, she told them that no matter how good, contemporary speeches just did not sell. Then she thought of the letters format.

"Ah, youth," she writes. "What a marvellous life we had. We made love so many times and each time I was reduced to being only breasts, thighs and my sex. Our jobs separated us for a few days, but this



Charismatic and outgoing, Riitta Uosukainen is uncharacteristically coy when challenged about running for Finland's presidency

did not affect the statistics too much. Weariness and age have a bit. But if the signal is a light, I am ready. What signal? A hint of aftershave or talc, a smell coming from the forest, a breeze touching clothing, a brushing against, a glance, a caress, spinning around ... all extraordinary signs so delicious to interpret. The semantics of the bedroom.

"We Karelians are more sensual than other Finns. Karelian women

ask their men when they return home: 'Do you want to eat, drink, take a sauna or have sex?' You and I ask each other this question every week and our answers depend on circumstances. My greatest happiness is to start with love-making. Until Friday ..."

She continues: "Many men here are still not used to the style of women. Others, however, have realised how good it is for decision-making if women are involved. It is

important for women to retain their own style. I have mine."

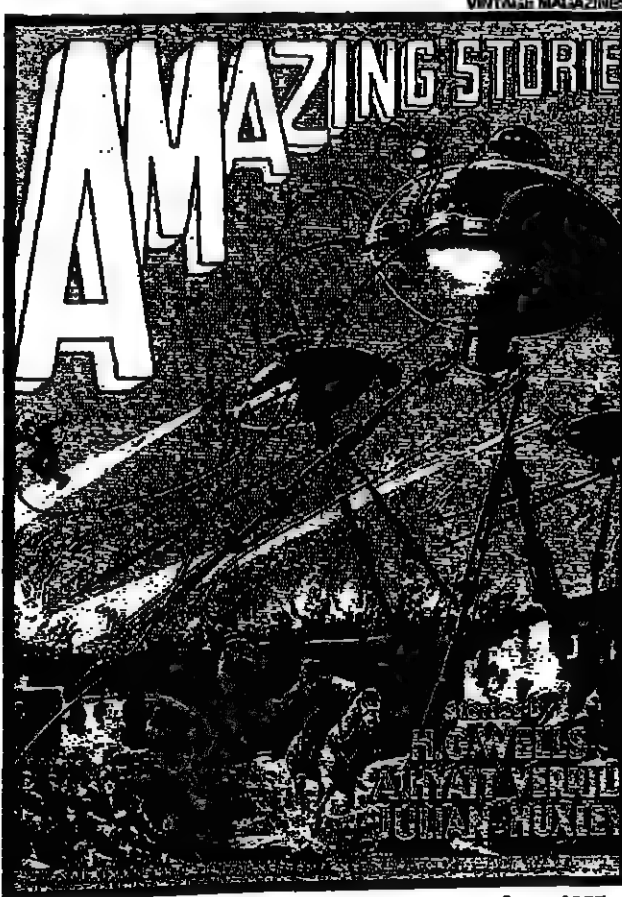
Her son, a 24-year-old medical student, tried to persuade her to tone down the book. "As for my dear husband, there was a silence of several minutes when he read the chapter devoted to us. Then he said 'aniaa palaa' (let's go)."

Her fame has helped to pack the parliament galleries with youngsters. Some have read her book. "Remember when we were students in

1962," she writes. "The foot of the bed broke and we fell on to the floor next to the old radio set and we laughed like mad. Once the shops opened, I ran and bought another foot and a lock for the door. I could never live with a man with whom I could not laugh in bed. I cry a lot, but tears have no place in our love life. Instead we laugh."

In her office, she adds: "Eroticism, after all, is the power of life and gives power to work."

Are we living in a world invented by science fiction?



Watch this space — an SF magazine cover from 1927

Science fiction isn't only for space cadets. Its most powerful plots can be alarmingly plausible. In 1938 a radio adaptation of *War of the Worlds* famously sent the citizens of New Jersey into a spin, believing that the Martians had landed. H.G. Wells was believable because he brought a sharp biologist's eye to his fantasies. His fiction was rooted in fact. The same was true for Mary Shelley, the mother of the SF genre. Knowing of Luigi Galvani and his experiments using electrical currents on dead frogs, she brought hints of new science into *Frankenstein*.

But has SF, in its turn, inspired scientists into greater imaginative leaps? These are the sort of questions being raised in a C4 series currently investigating what is apparently the most popular storytelling form of our time.

"Obviously science fiction and science are inalterably different enterprises," says a reassuringly sceptical John Clute, the author of the SF addicts' "bible", the *Encyclopedia of Fantasy*. "Nobody who reads a story believes in it in the same way as they believe in the force of gravity."

Rachel Campbell-Johnston talks to the authors who inspired a generation

Rather, the relationship between science and science fiction is reciprocal. The literary world may dismiss much of the genre as trash, but according to Brian Aldiss, one of Britain's foremost SF writers, the staff of NASA are addicted to it. "They are all reading it there. They have done since they were kids."

The veteran author Arthur C. Clarke says: "Space travel might have happened eventually, even if science fiction didn't exist — although I doubt it." The astronaut Joe Allen once wrote to him: "When I was a boy, you infected me with both the writing bug and the space bug, but neglected to tell me how difficult either undertaking can be."

Things that are now commonplace — but were once regarded as impossible — have their origins in the genre, according to the SF writer Stephen Baxter. When Jules Verne predicted flights to the Moon "he had the engineering details basically right. A huge cannon was fired into the sky, which I suppose is rather like launching a rocket. Although Verne didn't realise that the

force of acceleration would have crushed the craft, he got things more or less right — the weightlessness, the recycling of air, the going into orbit."

Obviously thousands of zany ideas vanish into deepest implausibility, but some fantasies prove prophetic. "We are living in a world invented by SF," says Aldiss. "When I was a boy, a gas man came down our street with a pole every evening to light the lamps. Now street lighting is all controlled by sophisticated time-clocks."

The ubiquitous eyes of surveillance cameras were foretold by George Orwell. And even time-travel seems almost possible. Images taken by the Hubble space telescope can show us things that happened millions of years ago. "I think we will time-travel one day," Baxter suggests. "Already there are blueprints of how we might build time-machines, although they would take

massive energies — such as those found in an exploding star. But still, if it's not against the laws of physics, then it's just engineering."

Heavyweight SF writers are often scientists by training: Wells, Clarke and Asimov, for example. "I invented the communications satellite," Clarke claims. "It was my idea to send up a rocket and put a repeater on it to message the world. I have revolutionised world communications." Other SF writers are more modest about their achievements. Yet their foresight can astound. William Gibson, the author of the bestseller *Neuromancer*, is credited as the inventor of cyberspace. His vision of a "consensual hallucination" probably inspired more people on to the Internet than the most enthusiastic computer-Serve marketing campaign.

Only last week it was announced that the first person

was to be fitted with a fully mobile bionic arm — an electronic limb covered with artificial skin and packed with microchips. Was *Terminator* part of its inspiration? Or, before that, the robots of *Metropolis*?

Indeed, science has sometimes stolen its ideas straight from fiction. When Fritz Lang, the director of the 1929 German SF film *Die Frau im Mond*, needed a device to add suspense to a scene of a rocket taking off, he hit on the idea of counting in reverse from ten to zero. Now we hear the technicians at NASA doing it at every launch.

SP's most influential era may well be over, however, Clute suggests. In the 1950s and 1960s space was still mysterious enough to admit the speculations of even the most vivid imagination. Science fiction could act as a sort of conceptual breakthrough — a huge spaceship zooming through the cosmos, trailing concepts in its wake. "Its fantasies were based on a sort of dream, a conviction that the future could be made to work," says Clute. "But we no longer

have the sort of unified culture that can dream that dream. There are too many plots going on at the end of the 20th century, and a simple form of fiction cannot describe the dream of a complex scientific reality."

According to Baxter, the job of the SF writer today is not so much to invent technologies as to push out the boundaries of scientific philosophies. This is what he tried to do in *Timelike Infinity*, in which he dramatises the mind-bending paradoxes of Schrödinger's cat, stretching theories of quantum mechanics into more indeterminate territories than ever before.

This has always been the most important role of science fiction. Its task, from *Frankenstein* onwards, has been to respond to possibilities, to the hopes and fears, the dangers and delights of the future. Science fiction writers grapple with and form our philosophical futures as much as our scientific ones. They should be taken more seriously than rumours of little green men.

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All Greek to us harmless drudges

John Chadwick says classical scholarship needs a new lexicon

No one — except a lexicographer — actually reads a dictionary. We all have them to hand as required, but we use them as tools, to solve whatever linguistic problems we meet. Consequently, no one gives much thought to the process of making them.

For the most part we are well served, at least in English, by our dictionaries. We may complain that they are not up-to-date with the latest expressions, or we might find they omit uses and words now obsolete, so that we are confused when we try to read Elizabethan literature. But English scholars are well provided with the tools they need. This is not true of other languages. So long as we are dealing with a modern language, it is always, at least in theory, possible to go to a native speaker and ask him to explain how a word is used. Even this may not be simple, for the native speaker may know what he should say, but cannot explain why one form is correct and another not.

However, no one still speaks ancient languages. They may, as Greek does, live on in an altered form; but its speakers cannot be used as informants on a form of the language that has not been spoken for 2,000 years. So how do we set about making a dictionary of such a language?

It seemed sacrilege to improve on the old dictionary

Essentially, there are two ways: either you must copy what other dictionaries have done, selecting and combining their material to suit your own purposes; or you must collect a large number of examples of the word being studied from the ancient texts, and from them deduce the ways in which the word was used. The first method is much easier and this is what almost all makers of dictionaries do. The second method requires far more time and work; but if intelligently done, its results are much more reliable.

Classical scholars have for generations relied on a long tradition. When I was at school we used a Latin dictionary first published in 1879, which, according to its title page was "founded on Andrew's edition of Freund's Latin Dictionary, revised, enlarged and in great part rewritten by C.T. Lewis and C. Short". In 1946 I was invited to join the team that was working under the late J.M. Wylie on a project for a completely new dictionary, to be called *The Oxford Latin Dictionary*. This was eventually completed under the editorship of P. Glare in 1982. We made it a rule never to consult earlier dictionaries until we had drafted our own account of the word. Naturally the book repeated much already found in older ones, but in many cases a fresh approach cut through the tangle of verbiage and clarified the usage of the word, and in not a few cases ancient errors were corrected. One of Wylie's dicta was "the new dictionary will contain errors, but they will be our own, not other people's".

Likewise my school days were dominated by the towering figures of Liddell and

Scott, the authors of the largest Greek Lexicon of their time. This too was founded on a German original, but had been so much enlarged and improved in the course of eight editions that it was really a new work and a deservedly famous. Such was its reputation that it seemed sacrilege to dare to improve on it. Yet Greek studies did not stand still, and the 20th century saw progress in many fields that affected our understanding of the vocabulary. A ninth edition was prepared by two eminent Oxford scholars, who made no attempt to rewrite the Lexicon, but were content to add new words and meanings. Their work has now been continued by new Supplements, but the basic framework remains unchanged. I have found cases where the structure of an article can be shown to reproduce the definitions or synonyms offered by an ancient lexicographer. Yet there is no good reason to prefer to modern scholarship the opinions of a scholar writing a millennium after the time of Homer.

When I reached this conclusion I could not at first see what might be done, but I advocated a revision (and that means in places a reworking) of the *Intermediate Greek Lexicon*, the abridged version used by all our students. To my surprise, this proved popular among teachers of Greek, and I was encouraged to see if I could raise the funds needed to pay an editor. I should have been tempted to offer to do the job myself, if my age did not disqualify me. We have now received promises of grants sufficient to enable the project to start, and we have an editor who is well-equipped to work on this, having been chief assistant on the last Supplement to the main Lexicon. More funding will still be needed, but we feel confident that this will be forthcoming.

But what of the major Lexicon? I believe the wholesale rewriting that is needed would require the services of a large staff and perhaps 50 years. The expense would be prohibitive. Moreover, the day of the huge multivolume dictionary is over. Increasingly such books will be published in electronic form. This has the enormous advantage that the lexicographer no longer needs to abbreviate and compress his material to make it publishable. An immense text can be flagged and indexed so that the user can quickly find what he needs. Computers will never reduce the need for intelligent lexicographers, but they can lessen their labour and offer new possibilities for users. I have no doubt the next 30 years will see major changes in this field; all we can hope now is to attempt some small-scale and piecemeal improvements. At least classical studies are not dead, but moving forwards at an increasing pace.

The author is Emeritus Reader in Classics, University of Cambridge.



EXCITING NEW PROPOSALS FOR RUBBISH DISPOSAL (NEWS ITEM)

No D-Day for Kosovo

Pacifism is suddenly dead: Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy is a liberals' jihad

Something is wrong with the script. In March, I distinctly heard the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, tell the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, that his behaviour in Kosovo was "unacceptable". He emphasised the point by stamping his foot, imposing sanctions and warning of the "severest consequences". When asked if this meant force, Mr Cook said he wasn't saying, "but watch it Slobodan, just make my day". The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, fervently agreed. She added disgraceful and inexcusable to Mr Cook's adjective arsenal, and wanted her day made as well.

Last week, Serbian police regulars went on a shelling and burning rampage in Kosovo. More troops were moved in and a few thousand more Kosovans were sent into the mountains as refugees. Mr Cook was so upset he upped the adjective ante. It was not only unacceptable but "wholly intolerable". Every imaginable option was being reviewed and every imaginable "message" sent to Mr Milosevic. Eyes popping, Mr Cook is in such a state about Kosovo that he seems more likely to lay a bomb than drop one.

Tony Blair is spending this week on a whistle-stop tour of European capitals to drum up support for "getting tough with Milosevic". He, Mr Cook and the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, claim to have a battle-plan for Kosovo that will "stop another Bosnia" — and portray them in a decisive light on the world stage. The plan is being kept close to their chests. As Mr Robertson said on Monday night: "If this was D-Day, I would not have told you my plan. Why should I now?" The spin is, watch out for D-Day in Kosovo.

To avoid going over old ground, we can agree the following. The Serbs are behaving badly again. Ever since the break-up of former Yugoslavia, Serbian revanchists have driven minority tribes from land they consider Serb. They have cleansed not just with threats, bombs and subsidies, but by burning down villages and killing people. The worst atrocities against civilians seen in Europe since the Second World War have been committed in the name of Greater Serbia. Western public opinion, ever racist, expects more civility in these matters from Europeans than from Rwandans, Afghans or Indonesians.

We can also agree that rump

Yugoslavia is ruled by a bully whose democratic credentials, while technically robust, are not up to Hansard Society standards. Mr Milosevic refuses to do what he is told by outsiders. He thumbs his nose at the sanctions bluff. He has a fanatical commitment to the Serbian diaspora, which he is prepared to defend by all means. He enjoys wide support among Serbs, not least in seeking to keep Kosovo, even though 90 per cent of its population are now ethnic Albanians and want rid of him.

Less easily agreed, but a fact, is that Kosovo is different from Mr Milosevic's two previous adventures, Croatia and Bosnia. These were (just) sovereign states, recognised as such abroad. Kosovo is a Yugoslav province. It has a longstanding, peaceful separatist movement led by Ibrahim Rugova. Sooner or later Mr Milosevic or his successors must deal with this separatism since, as Noel Malcolm says in his new study of the region, "Serbia has already lost Kosovo" by virtue of demography. He is less likely to do so if goaded by outsiders, especially when those outsiders are encouraging Mr Rugova's bitter opponents, the KLA guerrillas set up by the former Albanian dictator, Enver Hoxha. The KLA is not above acts of terrorism, designed to make life equally intolerable for the Serbian police and for moderate politicians. Its leaders are playing the old gambit of inciting the police to brutal suppression, and then daring the world to come to its aid. The Serbs have obliged in the former respect. Should Britain oblige in the latter?

Present Mr Cook with almost any running world problem — Kashmir, Indonesia, Rwanda, Iraq, Palestine — and he explodes, stirs his consonants and looks very cross. He finds Kosovo intolerable and unacceptable. Better words would be stupid, costly, counterproductive and tragic for the local population. These words are judgmental, intolerable and unacceptable imply policy consequences that the British Government is unlikely to honour. It has tolerated Mr Milosevic's excesses since coming to office, as it has President Saddam Hussein. There are many countries which the Foreign Office declares unacceptable, but which maddeningly refuse to collapse in a heap at the chirp of a London soundbite.

The British Cabinet, and its overseas allies, will have to accept Serbian authority in Kosovo for two reasons. The first is that international intervention is no more justified in Kosovo than it might be in Eritrea, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan or Cyprus. All have recently achieved "regional danger" status. Belgrade's policy may not be to Britain's liking. That is quite different from Britain enforcing its dislike through arms.

Nor can I see a clear objective to the expedition that Mr Cook and Mr Robertson claim to have up their sleeve. In Bosnia, 5,000 British troops are policing a ceasefire line at the bidding of the local government. Even they are trapped without an exit strategy and are now on indefinite assignment, like Mr Cook's other ranting sabre, the fleet sailing in expensive circles round the Gulf. Thus do ethical "boutiques" grow into department stores.

I find it unimaginable that Britain would go into combat inside Yugoslavia on the side of separatist guerrillas. Bombing is neither here nor there, since air power must be in support of credible ground activity. Is the Government counting on the Albanian Army to invade? We might browbeat Nato — though an article in yesterday's *Herald Tribune* by the editor of Nato's military journal utterly discounts a Nato incursion. We could surely not win UN Security Council support. Troops would have to expel the Serbian Army and police regularly, and take over law and order indefinitely. The Serbs would never acknowledge the loss of Kosovo. The province would have to be garrisoned and annexed to Albania somehow under a UN protectorate.

This would blatantly breach the

1975 Helsinki Conference on European Security and Co-operation. The treaty, to which Yugoslavia was an important signatory, stipulated that Europe's borders should not be changed by force. A Nato operation in support of the KLA, far from diminishing regional danger, must surely encourage its guerrillas to move on to Macedonia, where Albania, Bulgaria and Greece all have territorial designs. Would Mr Cook and Nato support that, too? I am not aware of a Nato remit to "re-Balkanise" the Balkans. If Nato troops can be hired or hijacked by any separatist movement with a reasonable grievance and good public relations, the Western alliance ceases to be a force for peace. It becomes a public menace.

We tread dangerous ground. Since the war, the prospect of nuclear conflagration has made partial pacifists of us all. But the hugely powerful armies left over from the Cold War are itching for a role. They have little to defend. They are out to contract. Democratic leaders, under pressure to justify their cost, are making them mercenaries of moral imperialism. Such interventions offer easy short-term popularity and no longer upset the global balance of power.

Pacifism is suddenly dead. Left and right are joined in the war party. Mr Cook's ethical foreign policy is, in truth, a liberals' jihad against any state that refuses to subscribe to Locke and Mill, and catches the eye of a passing television crew. The old imperialism was specific in its goals. The new is whimsical, transient, cruel. Were the Americans right to kill hundreds of civilians in Panama in 1990 or the West hundreds in Iraq in 1991 or in Somalia in 1993? Was it for democracy, or ethics, or just something to do at the time?

Freed of the discipline of nuclear fear, public opinion has reverted to a medieval view of (foreign) war as a noble and manly crusade. Aided by the distorting lens of television, it years for those planes soaring into the sun, those bombs falling, those crumps and flashes, those unshaven guerrillas saying "Save us, please". This is good-cause violence, technological power sent against an unknown foe, safely far from home. Such power in the hands of the stupid is primitive and spasmodic. In the hands of the clever, it is terrifying.

Simon Jenkins

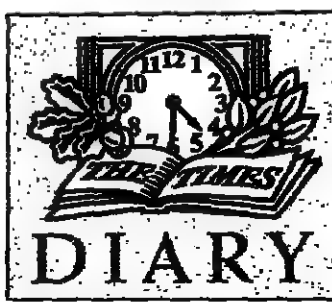
Matter of trust

CYNTHIA SPENCER, the beloved grandmother of Diana, the Princess of Wales, is to be honoured by the charitable trust that Earl Spencer is expected to set up in memory of his sister. A hospice in Northampton named after the late seventh Countess Spencer will be the first beneficiary of the Diana Spencer Fund. Cynthia (pictured), who Diana believed looked after her from the spirit world, eschewed many of the pleasures of society and devoted herself instead to worthy causes. "She was a fine



among the local community that it will become a kind of Mecca. We feel a responsibility," he says. "Cynthia was the first Spencer countess to dedicate her life to public works."

THE flames of controversy are licking around rival attempts to bring Joan of Arc to the screen. The team behind Joan of Arc: The Virgin Warrior, which is preparing a battle suit for Mira Sorvino in the lead role, has filed a writ against Luc Besson, the French director, for planning his own, as

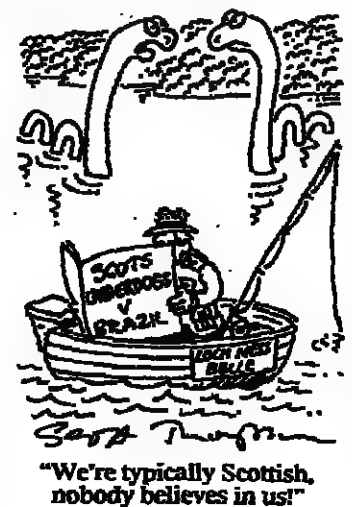


yet unnamed, version. The producers of *Warrior*, who have recruited Albert Finney, Derek Jacobi and Jacqueline Bisset, allege that Besson stole the idea after they refused to pick his fiancée to play Joan. Says Pierre Spengler, executive producer of *Warrior*: "We want it to be accurate, but I doubt Besson's film will be like that — it's not his kind of thing."

Big break

RONNIE WOOD, the jangling Rolling Stone, says he worked successfully as a lifestyle counsellor for Jimmy White, the snooker player. The news might surprise friends of the rocker, who has not hitherto been noted for self-restraint. Wood, who likes to pot a few blacks with White, says he weaned him off the hard stuff. "I

helped him to unload a lot of free-loaders that were taxing his mind and disturbing his flow, people who were all the time telling him to have another drink," says Wood. "He's back with his family. He was always on the missing list before. His wife could never find me when I was out with him. He's sorted himself out and it shows in his play." When I put this to White, he was clearly delighted. Among other kind offers, he suggested a journey to Diary Towers "to smack you about a bit". Time to pull up the drawbridge, me thinks.



EXCITING news. The "Third International Competency Conference" is upon us, and look out one of the efficient thrusters it has invited to this year's jolly gathering: Charles Lewington, key "strategist" of the Conservative Party's historic election defeat.

Exit, right

SEAN CONNERY, fresh from mistakenly turning up at a nudist golf club, was still in glum mood when I bumped into him in New York the other night. He won a Tony award as producer of the play, Art. His lengthy acceptance speech, in which he planned to thank Michelle, his wife, was rudely shortened. An annoyed Connery overheard Alec Baldwin, who tore himself away from Kim Basinger to present the award, announce that the envelope suggested another play had won. But, said Baldwin: "I made a deal with Sean so I could appear in Art in LA."

Connery then stomped off to a winners' dinner but found he had to queue. "It took me an hour to get in," he complained. After failing to find his seat, he left with Liam Neeson and Natasha Richardson: "This is a disorganised bunfight."

FILMING on The Notting Hill Project, a loosely connected follow-



up to Four Weddings and a Funeral, has been delayed by Hugh Grant's posterior. Despite the prospect of getting naked with his co-star, Julia Roberts, the actor (above), has asked for a double to film the love scenes. This is because he is apparently reluctant for his posterior to be caught on celluloid. So far, producers have failed to find a double who has the necessary "qualities", chief among them being "periness".

JASPER GERARD

Alan Coren



Close encounter may well resemble aerobatic display

One thing about the affair — whether or not the affair was about an affair — is certain: air travel can never, henceforth, be quite the same. I know this, because, by one of those happy fortitudes through which the god of columnists occasionally reminds us that we are not alone, I was 36,000ft up when I discovered about the affair, and by the time I was nought feet up again, I had both seen and experienced enough to know that Mr Charles Watkinson and Ms Reema Mahabier had between them created a watershed in civil aviation.

On Monday, BAS89 had just left Venice, brought Mrs Coren and me a drink, and given us newspapers, when, moments later, I learnt from mine that Mr Watkinson and Ms Mahabier stood accused of consuming their relationship aboard a South African Airways 747, at assorted stratospheric points between London and Johannesburg. The couple had vigorously denied this, maintaining that they were merely trying to get comfortable; but passengers who claimed to have spotted Reema first with her head in Charles's lap and, a little later, astride him, insisted that this was all too close for comfort, especially as a lot of moaning had gone on.

It was at this crucial point in the account that I was asked to turn to page 7, never easy with an airborne broadsheet at the best of times but almost impossible with the tray-table down, so it will not surprise you that the god of columnists now stepped in to ensure that my newspaper knocked my tumbler to the floor, where it rolled about, as tumblers will. Trapped by my tray-table yet unable to put it back up — because by this time the seat pocket, having begun the flight already full of sick-bags, free magazines, headsets, an encyclopedia of duty-free junk, and an instruction booklet about what to do with your high heels when blowing the whistle attached to your rubber dinghy, was now overflowing with the sessions of paper I wasn't reading, the bottle I'd emptied into my tumbler, a bag of toffees, and one of Ciriak's fannies — I couldn't reach under my seat. Someone else had to do it, by putting her face into her husband's lap and reaching beneath him with one arm while grasping his thigh with the other. All this was accompanied by a lot of moaning, climaxing in a single shrill cry when, coming back up, she banged her head on her husband's tray-table, which was still down.

Fortunately — since most of our fellow passengers had also by this time read their complimentary newspapers — Mrs Coren did not then straddle me. The moan across the aisle was not so lucky. Seconds later, his wife, if it was his wife, in attempting to squeeze past him to get to (or so she subsequently attempted to prove, though who can any longer be sure?) the lavatory, not only straddled him, but sat down suddenly in his lap. There was much giggling. I looked away. I did not therefore see what an instant after, occasioned a sudden male yell, but let us give them the benefit of the doubt. We have all trodden on airborne toes.

Just as we have all found ourselves groping between our own legs, trying to locate the little packet of salt, or perhaps sugar, after opening a towellette over our lettuce leaf or putting pepper in our coffee, I think we would be well advised to stop doing that, now. Nor should we, in the middle of the night, accede to our partner's request to reach across and help him or her to find the right channel for easy listening: I have known a partner shriek "No, not", not realising, with earphones on, quite how loud the shout was — until the passenger on the other side woke up, switched his light on, and found next to him a writhing conjoint blanket containing anyone's guess. Indeed, from now on, travellers preferring not to be met at journey's end by vice squads and paparazzi would be advised not to recline the seat at all, thereby minimising the risk of a nap and any lolling open to ambiguous interpretation. I myself once woke up on the shoulder of a bearded Belgian; had I moaned in my sleep, as I gather I sometimes do, we might both have been taken off in manacles.

So there, what Watkinson and Mahabier got up to, none of us is in a position to judge. All we can do is learn from them, and try to avoid, on our future flights, those positions likely to invite anyone else to judge.



A QUIVER FULL OF ISSUES

Archer should ask his party to investigate him

It was perhaps inevitable that a man who once published a novel entitled *A Matter of Honour* and chaired an appeal for Kurdish refugees called "The Simple Truth Campaign" should find himself at the centre of an ethical controversy. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare has often tempted the fates — and he wants to go on tempting them in his bid to be mayor of London.

This week Sir Timothy Kitson, a prominent Conservative veteran and former Member of Parliament, asked Central Office to investigate a range of questions about Lord Archer's public and private life. Yesterday Lord Archer took the opportunity of an article in the *London Evening Standard* to reply to the long-standing accusations and set out his case for continuing in the race.

It is unlikely that Lord Archer's words will end matters. He took on a vast array of accusations and offered different sorts of answers. In some instances he issued a straight denial; in others he disputed matters of detail; in further examples he acknowledged his mistakes but indicated that others were responsible; and in a few incidents he conceded the case entirely but dismissed them as irrelevant. His broad themes were that the matters in dispute were often decades old and almost always trivial. This will not be enough to persuade Sir Timothy to withdraw his petition.

Some will wonder whether this is a proper concern for the Conservative Party at all. Lord Archer is widely recognised as a colourful and controversial individual: both his glitter and the mud that sticks to it are widely known. Any political organisation is entitled, however, to consider its wider reputation. Accusations of a candidate's inconsistency alone can be enough to harm a party. As the Conservatives know to their cost from the Neil Hamilton saga, it helps no one to let matters linger. Mr Hamilton never had a full opportunity to defend himself and, as a result, the Tories received a level of opprobrium in excess of the misdemeanours

that he might have committed. The case for the party clarifying Lord Archer's record is compelling. Yet the affair presents the Conservatives with a huge administrative problem. Lord Archer is, at the moment, a formally undeclared candidate for a post that does not yet exist. He has no position in his party beyond his membership. Even his most intense critics would not argue that his alleged past antics merit expulsion. The Conservatives have not set the rules for the primary contest that will determine their candidate. It is impossible to know whether Lord Archer has broken any of them. Furthermore, the new Ethics and Integrity committee set up by William Hague does not have a full complement of members or complete terms of reference.

As matters thus stand, Sir Timothy's complaint cannot be dealt with as quickly as it should be. The Conservatives cannot act until the Government has published its Bill on London. Even then, they must finalise their primary procedure, properly establish the Ethics and Integrity committee and Lord Archer must formally announce his candidacy. It could be Christmas or beyond before these conditions are satisfied. In the meantime, Lord Archer's reputation stands attacked but with no forum for redress. He could, belatedly, sue for libel but the courts would move no faster than the Party.

It is imperative for all concerned that this dispute is settled swiftly. There is only one, somewhat unorthodox, method by which this might be achieved. The Ethics and Integrity committee should have found a chairman and decided upon its procedures within the next few weeks. Lord Archer could ask it to adjudicate on whether he was a fit candidate for high public office. That would circumvent the fact that precise rules for the specific contest of mayor of London are not at hand. He could promise to respect its verdict and not prolong any adverse decision through litigation. This is an imperfect solution to an unusual situation. It is, unfortunately, the only option available.

THE STABLES OF LAGOS

A small chance for some much-needed cleansing

Few tears have been shed at the death of General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military leader who seized power in 1993 and for five years subjected his country to corruption and arbitrary rule. He leaves a legacy of economic stagnation, political tension and moral bankruptcy. Under his rule, Nigeria has become an international pariah and a byword for exploitation, drug smuggling and swindlers. His execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni activists led to Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth; and his manipulation of the elections threatened to trigger further sanctions against his country.

His death at least gives Nigeria some respite. A new military leader has been sworn in; the change raises at least some small hopes for a new beginning. Britain, America and the Commonwealth have urged General Abdulsalam Abubakar to ensure a "genuine" transition to democracy and allow all parties to contest the coming election. So far he has given no indication whether, like his predecessor, he will be the sole candidate. But he has promised to stick to the timetable for a return to civilian government by October 1, and has called for "all hands on deck" to revive the country.

The coming few days will show whether the demoralised Nigerian opposition can use this chance to rally democratic forces. The junta cannot afford any let-up: the years of repression have intensified regional and tribal divisions, and the Yoruba, in particu-

lar, are seething with resentment at the dominance of the military clique from the northern Muslim heartland. Their leader, Chief Moshood Abiola, was the presumed winner of the aborted 1993 general election, and remains in prison on a charge of treason. The Ogoni, whose leaders were hanged in defiance of world calls for clemency, are equally angry at their brutal treatment.

Even the Opposition accepts that its calls for the installation of Chief Abiola as head of a government of national unity are unlikely to win approval in Abuja. The only hope, therefore, is that General Abubakar is more willing than his predecessor to listen to outside warnings. These include the tumbling value of the naira currency, food shortages and dire forecasts for an economy so mired in corruption that even the oil industry, generating 95 per cent of export income, is unable to keep its equipment properly serviced and functioning.

Nigeria is now the most divisive issue in the Commonwealth: and this body has the greatest interest in putting order to the new leadership. There is some hope that General Abubakar may listen: he is a professional soldier, said to be uninterested in political power for himself. But too many of his fellow officers are corrupt profiteers: they will not willingly allow him freedom to cleanse the stables. Only if he can assert his authority and raise his sights beyond his clique's own profit does Nigeria have any chance of recovering from its present plight.

ALL TO PLAY FOR

The biggest tournament yet, and potentially the best

The World Cup has come home. France is the cradle of football's premier tournament. And, the walls of the ticketless notwithstanding, it is the host just for the contest of superlatives that begins this afternoon. The biggest event in soccer's history is also the world's greatest test of sporting prowess. More spectators, in stadiums and on screens, will watch more teams than ever before in the contest to claim the prize conceived by the visionary Frenchman Jules Rimet. The trophy that bears his name now rests in Rio, having been won three times by the World Cup's most consistently creative team. And it is fitting that the tournament should begin with Brazil showcasing their skill against Scotland, the nation which least grace to football's first international and has shown pluck ever since. This will be the fourth time the Latin Goliath and Celtic David have faced each other in the competition's finals.

Although the Scots have never won they have fought spirited rearguard actions, footballing Dunkirks, which have blunted Brazil's scoring edge without detracting from the drama. A victory for Scotland today would be handsome reward for the quiet dedication of the team and its unassuming manager, Craig Brown. It would also delight the Tartan Army of travelling supporters who have established a reputation for good-natured bonhomie abroad.

Even before the first ball is kicked a great sporting event promises the pleasures of anticipation, with the ranking of potential players, the juggling of teams, the weighing of rivals' merits and the fans' preparations to

turn each match into a festival. These pleasures have been tainted for England's fans this summer with the wayward appetites of flawed talents, the quixotic ticket allocation system of the organisers and the capricious tactics of Air France's employees combining to upset expectations. The immaturity, in particular, of men who should know what England expects has given fans cause to grieve. The supporters who made stars millionaires have been cheated by their heroes' self-indulgence. But the courage of Glenn Hoddle, in imposing discipline on his squad, should encourage all who wish England well. He has given the nation the chance to take new heroes to its heart. Dedicated young players such as Paul Scholes and Michael Owen now have the world at their feet. And the covetous eyes cast at the latter by England's rivals should instil confidence in even the most nervous.

The partisanship that makes victory for one's own team the solvent of all misery, and its defeat the destroyer of any good humour, is intrinsic to football. The beautiful game demands passionate attachment. But the glory of the World Cup is the number of dramas that can engage the passions. Novice nations such as Japan and Jamaica will enjoy the good wishes of most. As the tournament advances and teams are whittled away, a new army of neutrals will be ready to cheer individual skill, from whatever quarter. And ready to appreciate the capacity of the French to overcome chaos to create an event of dash and quality. There is no reason why the biggest World Cup yet should not also be the best.

'Hypocrisy' of fees for student tuition

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference

Sir, In your leading article today, "Bill and Ben" you argue that Tony Benn's case for abandoning the introduction of student tuition fees is "entirely spurious". You also state that "until recently the costs of that process [access to higher education] have fallen on predominantly on society while the benefits have flowed disproportionately to individuals".

The truth of this analysis exposes the injustice and short-sightedness of an entirely financial expedient. For decades, and certainly for the past 30 years, a university degree has indeed tended to bring riches to its holders as well as to society. None has benefited more from free university education than the Prime Minister's age group.

The obvious way of reflecting this truth would have been to have levied a progressive graduate tax on all — of any age — who were in the upper tax group and who had attended a British university. Instead, the accident of birth will foist fees on to those born after 1980 while leaving their older siblings to thank legislative caprice for their untaxed advantage. As for ourselves, we who have borrowed from previous generations now abuse our power by imposing burdens on a generation likely to be confronted with unparalleled social liabilities, ourselves included.

It is a dreadful example of selfishness and hypocrisy, but one which the educated young might have expected from the Thatcherite era. What price the millennium?

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK TOBIN,
Chairman, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7PG,
June 8.

School opt-outs

From Dame Angela Rumbold

Sir, The Minister of State for Education and Employment (letter, June 5) denies that the Labour Party has done a U-turn on school opt-outs, and claims that his recent announcement is in line with the party's manifesto commitment. This may be true. However, it is a mistake to confuse Labour's policy in this area with the powers given by Conservative governments to grant-maintained schools.

Full funding merely allows schools to manage their own finances, whereas under the previous Government grant-maintained schools were able to appoint their own staff, select their own pupils, and decide the character and ethos of their schools. They could choose to have grammar streams, to enlarge by adding sixth forms and even in one case to try out boarding arrangements. Such freedom is unlikely under the proposed system. Let us not be fooled into imagining that the stranglehold of local education authority and Government is lessened by this funding announcement. If anything, it merely enhances the LEA's ability to redistribute children around the schools without giving those schools any choice. It also ensures that parental choice will become even more meaningless than it is now.

A more effective change would be to return the ability of schools to allow children from their own locality first choice of their local schools. At least parents would know where they were, even if the LEAs and the Government were frustrated in their efforts to manipulate successful schools.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA RUMBOLD
(Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, 1986-90),
18 Park Road, Surbiton KT5 8QD,
June 5.

Teachers' load

From the Headmaster of The Perse School, Cambridge

Sir, Mr David Chapman (letter, June 8) is a model of restraint. I too received *Reducing the Bureaucratic Burden on Teachers* — six copies of it. By the same post came Circular 3/98: *Statutory approval of qualifications under Section 400 of Education Act of 1996* (60 pages) and 4/98: *Teaching: High Status, High Standards — Requirements for Courses of Initial Teacher Training* (140 pages). I subscribe to the importance of both documents, although in seven years as a Head I have never actually had to consult 3/98's annual equivalent. Circular 4/98 — immensely thorough — covers every aspect of the new curriculum arrangements for initial teacher training at all ages. Its usefulness in this form, however, must surely be only for those institutions which take part in the first phase.

If I needed either of these documents I could surely have a telephone inquiry line to contact. Better still, could not the DfEE send out more summaries of key circulars? Presumably it has to write them for the politicians it serves.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL RICHARDSON,
Headmaster, The Perse School,
Cambridge CB2 2QF,
June 8.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9JN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Channel rail links still have far to go

From the Managing Director of Dover Harbour Board

Sir, You report today that the Deputy Prime Minister is pressing for a three-fold rise in the volume of freight traffic through the Channel Tunnel.

Mr Prescott's commitment to increasing the volume of rail-borne freight traffic and to developing a coherent network of integrated services offers real hope for reducing congestion, cutting pollution and easing vital trade routes; but it is essential that we ensure the capacity to meet this objective.

Forecasts show that if government policy is successful extra cross-Channel through-rail freight capacity will be needed within the next 10-15 years. The most cost-effective means of providing this is to include Dover in the proposed rail freight highway — a seven-mile stretch which would provide a second "through-rail" link at a fraction of the cost of a second fixed tunnel link or even of the Government's current contribution to the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The new finance deal for the CTRL is an adroit manoeuvre by the Deputy Prime Minister and is to be warmly welcomed. It should not be forgotten, however, that it was required as a result of bad planning and policy-making in previous years. It would be nice to think that we might learn from the mistakes.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN SLOGGETT,
Managing Director,
Dover Harbour Board,
Harbour House,
Dover, Kent CT17 9BU,
June 4.

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, Eurostar, which is at the heart of the Government's difficulties over the CTRL, has two main drawbacks.

The first — probably irreversible — is the size of each train, which comprises 18 coaches with capacity approaching that of two jumbo jets. It is thus unwieldy and expensive to operate. A Eurostar has twice the accommodation of a French TGV (which at times of high demand are simply run in multiple) and more than the German ICE involved in last week's terrible accident, the next generation of which in any event is being built with significantly less accommodation.

The other main drawback is the 20-minute check-in time at Waterloo, Paris, Brussels and elsewhere. It is well known in the railway industry

that if a train can complete a journey in less than three hours, then (assuming) other things being relatively equal) it has a strong competitive edge over the equivalent airline journey.

Trains between London and Paris take between 173 and 189 minutes. If one adds 20 minutes' check-in, then the psychological time is almost 3½ hours. Trains to Brussels take between 156 and 168 minutes, thereby averaging — including the check-in — over the critical three-hour threshold. Worse still, at Brussels, the 20 minutes' connection to Germany is sometimes missed because of slow passport control (and a long walk), leaving passengers with a two hour wait for the next train.

This second drawback could be removed by Mr Prescott and his colleagues at a stroke of the pen.

Yours sincerely,
R. H. FOSTER,
Winterburn Grange, nr Skipton,
North Yorkshire BD23 3QR,
June 4.

From Dr William Filmer-Sankey,
Director of The Victorian Society

Sir, The regeneration of the Grade I listed Victorian masterpieces of St Pancras Station and the Midland Grand Hotel, and of the remarkable 19th-century townscape around them, was hailed as one of the great potential benefits of the CTRL. Conservation bodies, such as this society and English Heritage, which were concerned at the scale of demolition necessary to create the new terminus, were nevertheless persuaded into support by the prospect of prosperity for an area which has suffered terribly from years of blight and neglect.

With the London section now delayed, and your leading article of June 4, "Wrong sort of plan", arguing that the section is in any event unnecessary, the prospects for St Pancras look dark again. The uncertainty must be ended and the blight lifted. The great station and its surroundings have suffered far too long. Another indefinite wait means increased cost of restoration and may lead to irreversible decline.

The Government must now guarantee that the works will be completed. Only then, but then at once, can regeneration begin.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FILMER-SANKEY,
Director,
The Victorian Society,
1 Priory Gardens,
Bedford Park, W4 1TT,
June 5.

Exam standards

From Mr James Reid

Sir, You report (June 2) the dismissal by South Thames College of lecturer Jethro Cadbury for bringing his college into disrepute. The college's main complaint was his having given an interview to *The Times* explaining why he set a 1988 A-level question in a degree paper for students at London Guildhall University. This once again highlights the growing concern over falling examination standards.

Last summer I took, and passed, a mathematics A level that, in my opinion, could quite easily have been managed by many of those at present doing the GCSE syllabus.

Mr Cadbury should surely not be singled out in this manner.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES REID
(1st year undergraduate,
Portsmouth Business School),
98 Kirby Road, North End,
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 0PW.
mc5915@esl.port.ac.uk

From Dr A. R. Stanford

Sir, It is a sad comment on our increasingly corporate-minded academic institutions that a lecturer appears to have been sacked from South Thames College for telling the truth about academic standards. Or perhaps I am old-fashioned in my belief that academics are charged with the pursuit of truth?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. STANFORD,
18 Princes Road,
Bromham, Bedford MK43 8QD,
June 2.

Sale of Rolls-Royce

From Mr Bernard Parke

Sir, In the late Sixties I purchased a new British-made car only to find that over the next six months many parts failed or just dropped off the vehicle.

I wrote to the then President of the Board of Trade to express my concern that if this experience was widespread it would lead to the demise of the British car industry. I received what could be called an unsympathetic reply from an official saying frankly I was wrong and the British car industry was second to none.

Nonetheless foreign cars were then becoming popular and I bought a second-hand VW Beetle. Is it not ironic to learn now that VW is to take over Rolls-Royce?

By the way, I still have the same Beetle. I was quite surprised the other day when the clutch went after 29 years.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD PARKE,
25 Poltimore Road,
Guildford,
Surrey GU2 5PT,
June 8.

Air quality

From Mr Mark C. Schroeder

Sir, As the Government develops its National Air Quality Strategy, and its energy policy, it will be interesting to see how it incorporates the evidence on pollution from heavy oil and coal-fired power generation (report and leading article, May 27).

At present all indications are that the Government is minded to institute a moratorium on new gas-fired generation, as part of an effort to preserve a share of the power-generation market for coal-fired stations. This is, of course, at complete cross purposes with the need for reduced emissions of particulates, a desire to cut sulphur emissions and the Government's well advertised commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂.

The facts are not in dispute. Gas-fired power generation is essentially totally free from emissions of either sulphur dioxide or particulates, produces only about 40 per cent of the CO₂ emissions that are associated with the most modern coal-fired generation and produces substantially less oxides of nitrogen.

The question for the Government is this: does the environment matter, or is it more concerned with propping up the last vestiges of the coal industry at the expense of everyone's health and wellbeing?

Regards,
MARK SCHROEDER
(Vice-President,
Government and Regulatory Affairs),
Enron Europe Ltd,
Four Millbank, SW1P 3ET,
June 1.

Uses for economists

From Mr Arthur S. Hoffman

Sir, Further to Mr Eddie Kent's letter (June 3), my preferred definition of an economist is someone who knows more about money than people who have got it.

Yours,
ARTHUR S. HOFFMAN,
55a Hastings Road,
Redhill-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN40 2NH,
June 4.

A helping hand

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, Budding authors and playwrights may be interested in a notice by the Glenalmond to Gilmerston road in Perthshire. It reads: "Plots for sale".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDERS,
6 Park Manor, Crief PH7 4LJ,
June 9.

Abacha's legacy of writers in captivity

From Mr Morris Farhi

Sir, Reacting to the death of Nigeria's President, General Sani Abacha (reports and obituary, June 9), the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN calls for the immediate release of all writers and journalists imprisoned in Nigeria.

PEN delegates from 31 countries are meeting in Chichester this week to discuss freedom of expression and human rights concerns. Many PEN centres around the world have elected jailed Nigerian writers and journalists as their honorary members and campaigned to have their colleagues released. Since the execution of the writer and Nobel laureate, Ken Saro-Wiwa (report, November 13, 1995), PEN has also intensified its efforts to end the arbitrary detention and harassment of writers and journalists in Nigeria.

The committee also urges that all charges against Wole Soyinka, be dropped and expresses its hope that all Nigerian writers in exile be allowed to return home, if they so wish, without fear of persecution.

PEN reminds multinational enterprises in Nigeria of their ethical duty to uphold international standards of free expression and promote human rights in that country.

Yours faithfully,
MORRIS FARHI
(Chair, Writers in Prison Committee),
International PEN,
9-10 Charterhouse Buildings,
Goswell Road, EC1M 7AT,
June 9.

Summoned by bleeps

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, The discovery by scientists at Stirling University that fish respond to a "dinner-gong" (report, June 2) reminds me of a well known trout pool in New Zealand which I first visited in 1950 and which remains a tourist attraction. It contains the largest trout I have ever seen.

There, I recall, a woman would bring them their food in a large metal dish, stand by the pool and bang the dish noisily with a spoon, at which all the fish would rush towards her, an impressive sight, to be rewarded by an ample meal.

However, these trout were never farmed. If the system used for feeding them at Stirling — an electronic bleep — were also to be used for luring them to their death, might not the same intelligence warn them off, or at least confuse those that slipped the net?

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2DW,
June 2.

From Mrs Susan Rigg

Sir, My late father-in-law used to tell of an old sadhu calling fish to feed half an hour before sunset every day at Takhat Sagar, a lake near Jodhpur in what is now Rajasthan, India. The fish, murrel, were clearly visible, very big and quite safe from fishermen, since the lake was sacred and fishing prohibited.

After leaving India shortly after Independence my father-in-law built a small pond in his garden in Yorkshire and used to call his goldfish to feed every day by knocking on the stone at the side of the pond. My husband and I followed suit in our garden in Hampshire.

I would be very happy to pass on my expertise to the scientists for a modest sum.

Yours faithfully,
S. RIGG,
Dorchester,
Portlock, Somerset TA24 8LL,
June 2.

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir, In the 1940s, when I was a child in princely India, we often had tea with His Highness, The Maharajah of Rewa State. He would tinkle a bell and his pond would heave with fish asking to be fed.

Quite a scientist, HH?

Yours sincerely,
HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD,
Chillingham Castle,
Chillingham,
Northumberland NE66 6UJ,
June 2.

'Stealing' trade

From Mr William L. B. Walker

Sir, Shortly after the war, when many coach parties were arriving at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, queues used to form outside a ladies' public convenience with a turnstile entrance opposite the back of the Star Inn.

One very hot afternoon, when the pub was closed, the landlord suggested to the long line of ladies that if they wished they could use the toilets in his yard. Several accepted his kind offer.

I was managing the brewery that owned the pub. With some disbelief I received a letter from the clerk to Woodstock council complaining that our tenant was "importuning" its trade (letters, June 1, 2, 9) and asking me to tell him that the practice must cease.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM L. B. WALKER,
145 Coleherne Court,
Redcliffe Gardens, SW5 0DY,
June 3.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 9: Mr Philip Flood was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia in London.

Mrs Flood was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Peter Carey (winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize) and Mrs Carey were received by The Queen.

Dr Humayun Khan (Director of the Commonwealth Foundation) was present.

Mr James Alder was received by The Queen and presented his book, *Birds of Balmoral*, to Her Majesty.

Mrs Alder was also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the Trustees at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, South East London.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon unveiled a plaque at 22 Upper Brook Street, Mayfair, London, to commemorate the founding of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening gave a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

The Viscountess Brokeborough (Lord In Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the arrival of The President of the Republic of South Africa and welcomed President Mandela on behalf of The Queen.

The Lady Eileen has succeeded the Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited Queen's College, Cambridge, to mark the five hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation and the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's first visit as Patroness.

The Lady Angela Oswald and

Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.
The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 9: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon gave a Garden Party.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 9: The Duke of York, Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the Trustees at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, South East London.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon unveiled a plaque at the Royal Salute at the Royal Artillery Sunset Ceremony on Horse Guards Parade, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 9: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 9: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new premises of the Haven Trust at Spa Road, Gloucester, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

The Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, afterwards visited Gloucestershire Carers Centre, College Green, Gloucester, and attended a Reception in the Parliament Rooms.

The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this afternoon attended the Malesore Group's Twenty Fifth Anniversary event at Malesore Riding Centre, Malesore, Gloucestershire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
June 9: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy and attended by the Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, arrived in London this afternoon from Brussels.

School news

Bancroft's School

Old Bancroftians' Day will this year be held on Saturday, June 27, and all former pupils of the School are invited to attend. Full details can be obtained from The Honorary Secretary, OIA, c/o Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0RF.

Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Founder's Day will be held on July 4, 1998, to coincide with a major exhibition of school archives and to commemorate the royal visit to the School in 1951. Further details from The Headmaster, LRG, Lancaster, LA1 3EF. Tel 01524 32109, www.lrgs.org.uk

Legal appointment

Inner Temple

Judge Orde has been elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS

AYEN - On 20th May to Ayodele and Rose (née Ayen), a son, Ayodele.

BANDA - On May 30th at The Portland Hospital to Bridget (née Chingale) and James, a daughter, Sandra Fawcett.

BUTLER - On June 5th at The Portland Hospital to Chantelle (née Zandi) and Patrick, a daughter, Natalia Blake.

CAREY - See Hyalop.

CHANCE - On June 4th to Michelle (née Freeman) and Andrew, a daughter, Lara Caroline, a sister for Roan.

CLEVELY - On June 4th to Joanne (née Greenwell) and Rupert, a daughter, Montana, a sister for Coco and India.

DANCE - On May 20th at The Portland Hospital to Susan and Michael, a son, Scott David, a brother for Hugh.

GLUCKSTEIN - On June 7th, 1998, to Diana (née Roberts) and Simon, a son, James Edward Roberts.

HAMMING - On April 20th to Marie-Chloé and Jonathan, a son, William Sebastian Hamming, a brother for Harry.

HUGHES - On 8th June 1998, at Princess Royal Hospital to Anne (née Kane) and Steven, a daughter, Katherine-Julia, a sister to Isabel.

HUTTON - On 27th May to Katie (née Harvey) and Chris, a daughter, Elizabeth Daisy.

HYSPOL - On May 25th 1998 to Patricia (née Carey) and John, a daughter, Charlotte Anne, a sister for Isabel Rose.

JOARDEN - On 31st May to Clare (née Stobart) and Peter, a beautiful daughter, Chloe Tabitha Clare.

LEONE - On 10th May 1998, at Lennox Hill Hospital, New York City, to Gavin and Elizabeth (née O'Donnell), a son, Angus Wheeler, a brother for Hannah and Catherine.

LINDSEY - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital to Chantelle and Ian, a daughter, Charlotte Anne, a sister for Isabel Rose.

Church news

The Church in Wales

The Rev Gwynn L.J. Warrington, Vicar of Gwynn with Hygrove to be Vicar of Llandudoch with Llandudoch (Cath). The Rev Katherine I. Warrington, Diocesan Sunday School Adviser is to be licensed as N.S.M.

The Rev Patricia A. Bryant to be Vicar of Merthyr Cynog with Glynthorpe with Llandudoch Fach with Llandudoch Fach. The Rev Peter J. Bryant, is to be licensed as N.S.M.

Exhibition

Painter-Stainers' Company

The Lord Chancellor opened a Painter-Stainers' Company craft exhibition held yesterday at Painters' Hall. Members of the Painter-Stainers' Company, exhibitors, associated craftsmen and students from the London Guildhall University and the Reigate School of Art and Design displayed examples of their work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MOORE - Joanne, Ann, Michael, Brian, John and family would like to thank the staff of the family and many friends for their numerous expressions of sympathy and floral tributes received in the last few days. The family would like to thank the staff of the family and many friends for their numerous expressions of sympathy and floral tributes received in the last few days. The family would like to thank the staff of the family and many friends for their numerous expressions of sympathy and floral tributes received in the last few days.

DEATHS

ALEXANDROU - Louis on 2nd June 1998, beloved son of John and Mary, died tragically walking in the hospital in Barcelona on 2nd June 1998 aged 81. Devoted husband of Mary, father to Alan and Elizabeth and grandfather to James, Simon, Arya and Dawn. Father-in-law to Gillian and Barbara. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London, W1N 4AL.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother yesterday: leaving the champagne for later

Dry launch for college's boat

By ALAN HAMILTON

QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER yesterday named a boat, but without either of the two traditional liquids associated with such an event water and champagne.

The Queen Mother was at Queen's College, Cambridge, of which she has been patroness for 50 years, to name a new £12,000 vessel for the college women's rowing team. She named it, appropriately, *Patroness*. In a brief ceremony on the safe dry land of the college lawn.

After the Queen Mother had left, the crew poured a glass of champagne over their new boat for luck. The tradition of breaking a

bottle over the bows is not followed in the case of boats made of glass fibre, as the resulting damage can be costly.

Philippa Bayley, 21, captain of the women's rowing crew and a third-year natural sciences student from Harpenden, Hertfordshire, said: "Apparently the Queen Mother did not want champagne, maybe it was just for simplicity's sake so we decided to have our own ceremony after she had gone."

Clarence House said that the Queen Mother had not been launching a boat, merely naming one.

The Queen Mother unveiled a plaque commemorating the college's 550th anniversary and her own half-century of patronage.

Dinners

13 Old Square

The chambers of Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC, gave a dinner at the Ivy, London, WC2, on June 4, 1998, to mark the appointment of Sir William Charles, former Junior Counsel to the Treasury (Chancery), to the High Court bench and to mark the retirement of Mr T.L.G. Cullen, QC, in accordance with chambers' tradition a speech in honour of the principal guests was made by the junior tenant, Mr Robert Swerling. Amongst the present and former members of chambers attending were: Lord Oliver of Aylmer, Lord Nicholas of Birkenhead, the Hon Mr Justice Rimer, Professor Sir Robert Jennings, QC, Professor

Kurt Upstein, QC, Mr R.W.M. Dias and Mr John Hopkins.

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company
Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs David Howard were received by Sir Ivor Cohen, Master of the Scientific Instrument Makers' Company, and Lady Cohen at the annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Sir Peter Parker and Mr Brian Atkinson, Senior Warden, were the speakers. The Master of the Musicians, Glaziers, Gardeners, Glass Sellers, Launderers and Information Technologists' Companies, the Commandant of RAF College Cranwell, and the Captain of HMS Vigilant were among those present.

Mr Frank Wootton

The Chief of the Air Staff was represented by Air Commodore C.M. Chambers, Director of the Air Staff, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Frank Wootton, aviation artist, held yesterday at St Clement Danes, The Strand. The Rev Nick Heron, Station Chaplain at RAF Northolt, officiated and the Rev Peter Smith, Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeiston, East Sussex, read the lesson. Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler read *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee. Mr John Blake gave an address. Among other guests were: Mrs Wootton (widow), Mr Leigh Wootton and Mr David Wootton (sons), Mrs Tracy Lignall (daughter), Mrs Gwynn Dace and Miss Della Patten (daughters), Mr Basil Wootton (step-brother), Miss

Doreen Wootton (step-sister), Mr Mark Wootton, Miss Mary J. Wootton, Mrs A. Wootton, Mrs J. Wootton, Mrs P. Wootton, Mrs D. Wootton, Mrs M. Wootton, Mrs S. Wootton, Mrs T. Wootton, Mrs V. Wootton, Mrs W. Wootton, Mrs X. Wootton, Mrs Y. Wootton, Mrs Z. Wootton, Mrs A. Wootton, Mrs B. Wootton, Mrs C. Wootton, Mrs D. Wootton, Mrs E. Wootton, Mrs F. Wootton, Mrs G. Wootton, Mrs H. Wootton, Mrs I. Wootton, Mrs J. Wootton, Mrs K. Wootton, Mrs L. Wootton, Mrs M. Wootton, Mrs N. Wootton, Mrs O. Wootton, Mrs P. Wootton, Mrs Q. Wootton, Mrs R. Wootton, Mrs S. Wootton, Mrs T. Wootton, Mrs U. Wootton, Mrs V. Wootton, Mrs W. Wootton, Mrs X. Wootton, Mrs Y. Wootton, Mrs Z. Wootton, Mrs A. Wootton, Mrs B. Wootton, Mrs C. Wootton, Mrs D. Wootton, Mrs E. Wootton, Mrs F. Wootton, Mrs G. Wootton, Mrs H. Wootton, Mrs I. Wootton, Mrs J. Wootton, Mrs K. Wootton, Mrs L. Wootton, Mrs M. Wootton, Mrs N. Wootton, Mrs O. Wootton, Mrs P. Wootton, Mrs Q. Wootton, Mrs R. Wootton, Mrs S. Wootton, Mrs T. 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OBITUARIES

CARDINAL AGOSTINO CASAROLI

Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, former Vatican Secretary of State, died on June 8 aged 83. He was born on November 24, 1914.

Agostino Casaroli was a consummate diplomat. With his quiet tenacity, monumental patience and impressive command of languages, he was naturally suited to his role as the Holy See's unofficial "foreign minister". In that capacity he was for almost thirty years a driving force behind the Vatican's so-called *Ostpolitik*, the policy, started by John XXIII and continued in varying ways by his successors, of establishing some sort of *modus vivendi* with Eastern Europe's communist regimes.

In implementing and helping to form that policy, Casaroli was guided always by his belief that "Man is made for dialogue. The man who does not answer is like a plant denied nourishment from the soil." It was a belief not shared by everyone in the Vatican. There were those — the present Pope among them — who thought that the interests of Catholics under totalitarian regimes might be better served by forthright denunciations of oppression than by diplomacy. But Casaroli's more cautious approach prevailed, enabling the Church to survive in often difficult conditions behind the Iron Curtain, and undoubtedly playing a part in securing the peaceful resolution of the Cold War.

Casaroli's skills as administrator, diplomat and policy-maker made him a key figure behind the scenes in the Vatican as well as on the wider stage. Many an international leader would have given much to have the background support of a man of Casaroli's humility and capacity. Balding, bespectacled and slightly built, he was almost birdlike in appearance and manner. But the apparent fragility was misleading. A rare combination of scholar, negotiator and political analyst, he had a remarkable capacity for work and enormous strength of will.

Any early differences of opinion which he and John Paul II may have had over Eastern Europe were soon overcome. As Cardinal-Secretary of State from 1979 to 1990 Casaroli was not only the Pope's right-hand man,

but found himself increasingly charged with the day-to-day running of the Vatican. He may well come to be seen as one of the last great Italian curial servants of the old school, rising from the humblest positions in the central government of the Catholic Church to reach its highest post below the pope.

On his retirement the foreign and domestic duties he had single-handedly discharged were divided between two separate posts.

Agostino Casaroli was born at Castel San Giovanni, near Piacenza, of a family exceedingly close to the Church. Two uncles were priests, one becoming Bishop of Sarsina and the other Rector of the Piacenza Seminary.

He began his training in Piacenza and moved to Rome in 1936 to study canon law at the Lateran University. By the time he took his degree, he had already begun his studies for the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, the training ground for the Vatican's diplomatic corps. He was ordained priest in 1937 and in 1940 entered the Secretariat of State, the administrative centre of the Vatican which he was to go on to lead as Cardinal-Secretary. From the beginning he was involved in the section dealing with what are called "extraordinary affairs", meaning largely relations with governments. In common parlance this section was dealing with foreign affairs, but that is not a phrase much favoured at the Vatican, which avoids as far as possible the term "foreign" in respect to the universal role of the Church.

His rise within the office was steady, and at the same time he taught diplomatic style at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy. In 1961, John XXIII nominated him Under-Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for Extraordinary Affairs of the Church, and he left almost immediately for Vienna to lead the Holy See's delegation to the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Relations. In 1963 he was back in Vienna as the Holy See's representative at the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations. After the signing of the agreement he stayed in Vienna to begin the process of reopening relations with the governments of Eastern Europe.

Casaroli already spoke Spanish, French, German, English and Portuguese; he was not slow to add the



Casaroli in 1975: for almost three decades his diplomacy helped the Church to survive under Communism in Eastern Europe

languages of Eastern Europe. He went to Budapest, to Prague and to Belgrade, and in August 1970 was invited to Yugoslavia to mark the opening of diplomatic relations between Belgrade and the Holy See. In 1971 he went to Moscow to sign the Holy See's acceptance of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, and followed this with talks with Soviet officials. This was the first exchange in Moscow between a representative of the Holy See and the Soviet Government for 50 years. It was followed with visits to East Germany and to Poland. In August 1975 Casaroli signed the final docu-

ment of the Helsinki accords. Of the original Helsinki signatories, he was the only one who would be still in office and present, 15 years later, at the security summit in Paris which marked the end of the Cold War.

Casaroli's enduring presence offered a source of stability in the Vatican during the turmoil which surrounded the short-lived pontificate of John Paul I in 1978. In April 1979 Pope John Paul II made him Pro-Secretary of State at the death of Cardinal Villot, and in June 1979 he was created Cardinal. In the same year he also took over the administration of Vatican City. He was responsi-

ble for ensuring the smooth running of the Holy See after the Pope was wounded in an assassination attempt in 1981.

There were no doubts of differences both of opinion and of approach between the forthright, populist John Paul II and his discreet, meticulous Secretary of State. This was especially evident over Eastern Europe, where the Polish-born Pope was inclined to take a much more uncompromising line towards the communist regimes. Casaroli was once reported to have explained his own attitude by recalling the words of John XXIII: "There are many enemies of the Church but the Church is enemy to no one." He went on to quote Paul VI, with whom he had worked even more closely: "It is almost impossible to negotiate with the Communists. We are proceeding on that almost."

Relations between the Vatican and the Soviet bloc took a turn for the worse after the imposition of martial law in Poland in 1981, but the process of impossible negotiation continued. Casaroli headed papal delegations to Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in 1985, and to Moscow for the Orthodox millennium in 1988. On the latter occasion he was received in the Kremlin by Mikhail Gorbachev, and the following year the Soviet leader had an unprecedented audience at the Vatican.

In harnessing Soviet *perestroika* to the Church's *Ostpolitik*, Casaroli displayed to the full his remarkable diplomatic skills. By the time he retired in December 1990 at the age of 75, he had seen his carefully nurtured initiatives come to fruition. "It is God who has won in Eastern Europe," the Pope was able to proclaim.

Agostino Casaroli was the devoted servant to a succession of Popes, but he also left the need for some contact with the world outside the Curia, and this he found in his work with the Gabelli Institute, a Rome centre for the re-education of minors in trouble with the law. He began helping young people in trouble in 1943, and many of these juvenile delinquents chose to keep in touch with him through the years as they found a position for themselves in society. These continuing contacts gave him a valuable insight from an unusual angle into the Church's place in the world.

DR JAMES CONWAY

James Conway, medical researcher, died on May 25 aged 76. He was born on September 14, 1921.

ALTHOUGH he had several careers in the field of medical research, James Conway worked for his last 18 years in Oxford, where he was a father-figure to many research fellows in the department of cardiology.

He was born in Zimbabwe, but was educated at Cambridge and St Bartholomew's Hospital, qualifying in 1946, after which he gained a London PhD in 1953 and a Cambridge MD in 1955. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

His first career was as a senior lecturer at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and then in 1956 he moved to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, as associate professor of medicine where he spent the next 13 years.

Working with Sidney Hobbler and later with David Bohr and Steve Julius, he gained an international reputation as an accomplished physiologist, and was one of the earliest pioneers of the measurement of cardiac output and other circulatory variables.

In 1969 he moved to Georgetown University as Professor of Medicine, but partly for family reasons he returned to Britain as manager of biological research at what was then ICI Pharmaceuticals (now Zeneca).

There his expertise in human circulatory physiology proved of great value in the research and development of many drugs and in particular of the new beta-adrenoceptor blocking agents which were to form the foundation of their modern pharmaceutical portfolio.

He retired from ICI in 1980 and happily attached himself to the department of cardiovascular medicine at Oxford. He was to play an important

part in the technique of ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and in the trial methodology designed to determine more precisely the effects of different treatments, using cross-over designs in randomised comparisons which markedly reduced the numbers of patients needed to obtain definitive answers.

Although he was by nature an extremely modest person, the quality of his work was acknowledged by a number of



awards, such as the Ciba Foundation's award for research on ageing, an established investigatorship for the American Heart Association and the Folkow award for integrated physiology.

Conway was an extremely unselfish individual who readily helped others to achieve their research aims. He was always more in the laboratory than anywhere else, and continued this despite his illness until a few months before his death.

He and his wife were very generous in looking after young people working in the laboratory and their families, offering wonderful meals at their rambling old house in Sutton Courtenay, with visitors contributing ethnic dishes from many parts of the world.

James Conway leaves behind a huge bibliography of solid research, with many reviews. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and by their daughter and four sons.

BRIGADIER G. S. N. RICHARDSON

Brigadier G. S. N. Richardson, DSO and bar, OBE, Gurkha commander, died on June 8 aged 87. He was born on July 12, 1910.

CALLED forward to command 1st Battalion 2nd Gurkha Rifles when the commanding officer was severely wounded in the 4th Indian Division's night attack on Monte Cassino of February 17-18, 1944, Gordon Richardson found his forward companies isolated and the rest of the battalion held down by arti-

lery, mortar and machinegun fire from three sides. Coolly he reorganised and consolidated his dispositions, so that his men held their ground, despite intense enemy fire, until daylight and throughout the following day.

In the evening, recognising that a frontal attack could not succeed against tenacious German resistance from prepared positions, General Sir Bernard Freyberg, VC — commanding the New Zealand Corps of which 4th Indian Division formed part — ordered a withdrawal.

Still in close contact with the

enemy, who continued to shell and mortar the battalion position, Richardson began the exacting manoeuvre of a night withdrawal under fire. Having devised a plan so that he never for a moment lost the initiative, he personally supervised the excavation of the wounded, remaining forward until every casualty and the last Gurkha rifleman was clear. For his tactical skill, coolness and courageous leadership, he was awarded an immediate DSO.

Having broken contact, 1st/2nd Gurkhas — as the regiment was invariably

known — held an exposed ridge facing Monte Cassino, under persistent artillery and mortar fire and without relief for five weeks, until the New Zealand Corps next attempted to take the monastery peak and open Route 6 through the Liri Valley to Rome in late March.

Richardson continued in command of 1st/2nd Gurkhas for the remainder of the Italian campaign. In August 1944, he and his small "reco group" narrowly avoided disaster when they bumped into a party of Austrian troops. Captain Clive Marley-Clarke

was wounded in the ensuing mêlée but Richardson managed to get him to cover, killing or wounding four of the Austrians who attempted to rush him.

He received a bar to his DSO, again an immediate award, for the skill and courage with which he led his battalion during operations to break through the Gothic line in September 1944. Formed across the thigh of Italy to halt the Allies' autumn advance, and then held them during the winter, this well-sited and strongly fortified line was Field-Marshal Kesselring's bastion against an early Allied advance into Austria.

Still with 7th brigade of 4th Indian Division, Richardson's battalion was ordered to attack a flank to relieve pressure on the neighbouring 46th division, in the centre of the Eighth Army's offensive to break through the Gothic Line on the Adriatic coast and into the Lombardy Plain.

Advancing towards the mined banks of a flooded river during the night of September 29-30, 1944, 1st/2nd Gurkhas collided with a German force advancing southwards. Fierce fighting at close range throughout the night saw the Germans driven back and the Gurkhas on their objective.

Although the battalion began to take heavy casualties from intense shelling starting at first light, Richardson held on and successfully fought off a determined German attempt to infiltrate his position during the following night. Then, after a hazardous personal reconnaissance, he mounted two company counter-attacks and joined up with the 46th Division, which was then able to get forward.

Richardson temporarily commanded 7th Indian Bri-



Richardson: courage and tactical acumen earned him two immediate DSOs in the Italian campaign in 1944

gade during operations in Greece, from March to November 1945. The brigade formed part of the 60,000-strong British force sent to support the Greek Government in the civil war which broke out as the German army withdrew from Greece in the autumn of 1944.

Returning to command of 1st/2nd Gurkhas in December 1945, Richardson took them to India and then, following partition — when 2nd Gurkhas joined the British

Army — to Singapore in March 1948. Their arrival barely preceded the outbreak of the communist insurrection in Malaya on June 16. Together with British and other Gurkha Rifles battalions, 1st/2nd Gurkhas immediately became involved in anti-terrorist operations in the Malayan jungle. Richardson finally left them in May 1949, after almost five years in command, broken only by nine months commanding 7th Indian Brigade. He was men-

tioned in dispatches for this period of service during the Malayan Emergency.

After various staff and training posts, he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion and 2nd Gurkha Rifles in December 1952, becoming the first officer of the regiment to command both its regular battalions for a full term. Promoted to brigadier, he commanded 63rd Gurkha Infantry Brigade during the final phase of anti-terrorist operations in Malaya, 1957-60. He was appointed Aide-de-Camp to HM the Queen in 1961 and retired from the Army in 1964.

Gordon Stewart Newnham Richardson was the son of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Richardson, KCB, CIE of the Indian Army. He was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and RMC Sandhurst and commissioned into the 2nd Gurkha Rifles in 1930. He joined the 1st Battalion in Dehra Dun in 1931 and was appointed adjutant in 1935. He was mentioned in dispatches for service during operations in Waziristan in 1937 before returning to England as an instructor at Sandhurst from 1938 to 1940.

Following his retirement from the Army he worked with the Overseas Development Aid Organisation in Nepal until 1972 when he was appointed OBE (Civil Division) for his services. In retirement he lived in St Owen, Jersey.

He married in 1938 Maria De Gruchy, who was killed in a rockfall in Nepal in 1968. Subsequently he married Mrs Jill Cope, widow of Major P. R. S. Cope of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, who predeceased him. He is survived by two daughters of his first marriage.

general prohibition of this practice, or only one concerning certain aspects of affairs?

Mr Baldwin: I do not understand the Hon and gallant member's question. I think the answer was perfectly clear.

Captain W. Benn: Does it apply to the series of articles now being published by Lord Birkenhead in the evening papers?

Mr Baldwin: I am afraid I do not know what that series is. There may sometimes be a matter of quasi-public policy.

Mr G. A. Spencer (Bromsgrove, L): Does the Right Hon Gentleman consider the question of divorce, about which Lord Birkenhead has been writing a great deal, one that a minister should write about at the present time?

Mr Baldwin: That is something that has passed. What I have said relates to the future.

Mr Stephen (Glasgow, Camlachie, Lab): Will the Prime Minister read the articles on murder by Lord Birkenhead?

Mr Baldwin: I have a good many things to read.

ON THIS DAY

June 10, 1925

Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, was asked in the House of Commons whether Cabinet Ministers should write articles on public policy. The Prime Minister replied that questions with his customary skill.

Mr Baldwin: No, I very rarely see the evening papers.

Mr Hore-Belisha (Devonport, L): Is the Right Hon Gentleman aware that there is a bill outside carrying the device "Murder. By the Earl of Birkenhead," and may I ask what action he proposes to take in the matter?

Mr Baldwin's reply was not audible in the Press Gallery.

Captain W. Benn (Leith, L): Do we understand from the Right Hon Gentleman's answer that he has issued a

ARTICLES BY CABINET

MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Mr Johnston (Dundee, Lab) asked the Prime Minister whether he had come to a decision as to the desirability or otherwise of Cabinet Ministers during their term of office contributing articles upon public policy to the newspaper Press; whether he had drawn the attention of the Secretary of State for India to the rule held desirable by members of previous Cabinets; and, if so, with what result.

Mr Baldwin, Prime Minister (Bewdley): The Government has carefully considered this question and has decided to reaffirm the principle that Ministers of the Crown while holding office should refrain from writing articles for publication in any way connected with matters of current public policy.

Mr Johnston: May I ask when that decision was taken, and whether the Prime Minister is aware of what is in today's London evening Press?

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Facing the future with no film

DIGITAL has become a buzzword in many aspects of consumer goods. From television to compact and minidisc, manufacturers have been telling us how digital is better than analogue. So how does it affect photography?

Digital still cameras have been on the consumer scene only for a couple of years and work on a very simple principle. The film in a camera is replaced with a CCD (Charge Coupled Device). This CCD is formed from hundreds of thousands of individual picture elements (known as pixels), each of which converts the light falling on it into an electrical impulse that is further converted into a number by a second chip in the camera. All these numbers are stored in a memory in the camera.

Many digital cameras have colour LCD screens that let you look at the picture you have just taken. But the most useful part about digital cameras is that you can also load the pictures from the camera's memory into a home PC. From there you can manipulate images (changing colours, removing elements, adding bits) and then print them, e-mail them to your family and friends or drop them into newsletters or birthday cards.

In terms of quality, the more pixels a camera's chip has, the better the image quality. There are some other issues in picture quality, but the number of pixels is the easiest to grasp. Recent models have CCDs with 1.3 million pixels, and some of the more expensive professional models may have two million or more pixel resolution.

DIGITAL

Pictures can be loaded into a home computer

Other factors to look out for when considering buying a digital camera are whether your chosen model has removable memory cards. These allow you to shoot many more images without having to download the camera's shots to a computer—obviously a bonus if you are a long way from home.

A preview LCD screen lets you see the picture you have just taken, but it also eats up the batteries and it is worthwhile buying a model that accepts rechargeable batteries if you don't want to spend a fortune in day-to-day running costs.

Some cameras can also take an inordinately long time to download their images to a PC. Buying a model with quicker download time may save you hours over a month's usage.

Do not forget that a digital camera is still a camera and do check to see that it has the ability to take good pictures in all kinds of lighting conditions. Models to look out for at the moment include Fujifilm's diminutive MX-700, Olympus's Camedia 840L, Konica's QM-100 and Kodak's DC-200.

Digital cameras are increasing in specification and quality all the time, while their prices are falling every month. According to the microchip manufacturer Intel, everything to do with computers gets twice as good for half the price every two years.

So be prepared for the fact that any camera you buy today will be all but obsolete in comparison with the newer models available by the millennium.

JOËL LACEY

Joël Lacey says we can argue about the equipment, but we should never forget what photography is really about

The history of photography stretches back more than 150 years. During that period, the cameras, the films, the lenses and the level of technological sophistication of all the elements that go to make a picture have developed at an ever-increasing pace.

With each advance has come another piece of jargon or another acronym but, while explaining all the latest technological advances, including the Advanced Photo System and digital imaging, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that the most important thing about photography is its ability to capture moments of our lives.

For many people the beginning and the end of photography is pointing a camera at the subject and pressing the shutter release button. It is an ever-popular hobby, reflected by the many events organised throughout the country in connection with Photo 96, the UK Year of Photography and the Electronic Image.

Do you, though, need a better camera to take better pictures? The answer was vividly illustrated by the British photographer Bert Hardy who, in response to the claim that he took good pictures because he had a good camera, went off to shoot a photo feature for *Picture Post* magazine armed with a Box Brownie. The pictures he brought back went on to be counted among his most memorable.

The modern equivalent of a Box Brownie, a single-use camera, is perfectly adequate for occasions such as weddings. If, for example, brides were to put one on each table at the reception, they would get pictures that recorded the presence of everyone there. Equally, if you are going to the beach, a single-use model is much safer to take than a standard camera. Beaches, with their sea water, sand and picnics, can often be fatal to

Crash, bang, wallop — what a memory



The most important thing about photography is its unique ability to capture for ever moments of our lives

cameras. Far better to lose, break or have stolen a model that costs £6 rather than one that costs £60 or £200. That said, there is little doubt that while a professional photographer can extract the best from a given camera, many of us will find we create better images with a better specified

camera. Models that give access to interchangeable lenses, which allow more powerful flashguns to be used or which have sophisticated light measuring and focusing systems, will certainly improve the majority of happy snaps.

Consumers seem perfectly willing to accept that a car that

costs £10,000 is likely to be more comfortable, faster and better equipped than a £5,000 model, yet many seem surprised when told that a £100 camera will produce significantly better results than a £50 model.

Processing is another important factor in the quality of

images you can produce. British developing and printing is the cheapest in Europe, but it is not necessarily always the best. If you get prints back with dust spots or bizarre colour casts, it might not be you or your camera but the processing house that is at fault. In recent years, a new type

of camera has emerged: the camera as fashion icon. This new breed of pocketable, often stainless steel, product is perfectly capable of taking a cracking snap as well, but these cameras are often bought for their looks and their ability to be slipped into a handbag. Products such as Canon's Ixus and Coniax's T2 may financially stretch you more significantly than other models but they are easy to use and certainly exude quality.

As well as stylish products, manufacturers have developed some pretty extreme models over the years. You can buy a camera that records a 360-degree panorama, cameras that work a couple of hundred feet underwater and lenses that will make an object half a mile away seem as if it is close enough to touch.

More worryingly, in recent times there has been an upsurge in "con" cameras. Cheaply made models, which have been styled to look like professional cameras, have been turning up at boot sales, mock auctions and high-street clearance sales at prices of up to £200 when their true worth is under a tenner.

To ensure that you do not get one of these models, the best protection is to shop at a specialist photo retailer.

Another consideration is the type and speed of film used in a camera. Film speeds are quoted in ISO-xxx, where xxx is a number. The higher the number (eg. 400 or 800), the more sensitive the film, and the more likely it will be to return an acceptable result even in low lighting conditions.

But the best method of getting consistently good pictures can be distilled down to two concepts: thought and practice.

● The author is technical editor of *Amateur Photographer*.

Confused? Then read on

Daniel Lezano looks at the range of cameras and what they can do

Walk into the average photographic shop and you will be presented with a bewildering display of cameras. No surprise, then, that many people—even those with experience of cameras—can get confused.

Cameras can be divided into three categories: compacts, 35mm single-lens reflexes (SLRs), and medium-format.

■ **Compact cameras:** These are point-and-shoot machines. Because they include everything you need to take a

picture in most conditions, compacts are ideal for the person who wants fuss-free photography. With features such as autofocus, automatic exposure, a built-in flashgun and motorwinds, the compact is an all-in-one package capable of great results. Almost all compacts use

either 35mm or APS film and there are two main types, the fixed lens and zoom compact. Fixed-lens compacts feature a wide-angle lens ideal for group shots and landscapes thanks to their wide field of view. Zoom compacts generally have the same features as fixed-lens models but boast a zoom lens to magnify distant subjects. Both types have their pros and cons. Fixed-lens compacts are smaller and lighter. Also, the lens on a fixed lens usually produces sharper results than a similarly priced zoom. So, if you're looking for a very small camera, or the highest lens quality possible from a compact, choosing a fixed-lens model is a wise choice.

Zoom compact sales far outweigh those of fixed-lens compacts, so what do they have going for them? The difference in lens quality isn't immediately obvious. Unless you plan making A4-size enlargements from your photos, it's unlikely you will notice any difference in sharpness between the two types.

The versatility of a powerful zoom lens shouldn't be understated. How often has your subject been little more than a dot in the centre of the picture because you couldn't get close

enough? A zoom lens could have taken care of this with ease. For holidays or general snapshots, this is the camera for you.

■ **35mm single-lens reflexes (SLRs):** What you see through the viewfinder is how your photograph will look, as a mirror in the camera reflects the image from the lens up into the viewfinder.

For versatility, there's little to touch the SLR, which offers the user complete control of almost every camera feature.

Nearly all models allow you to attach different lenses, which provides great scope for versatility. Wildlife photographers can fit a powerful telephoto lens to capture a distant animal and a wedding photographer can use a wide-angle lens to fit a large number of people in the frame. For general photography there's an enormous range of lenses on offer. As you would expect, these lenses offer a higher performance than those found on all but the high-end compact cameras. Flashguns, filters and motorwinds all add to the flexibility of an SLR system and make it the No 1 choice for creativity.

At the low end of the price range, SLRs, having the mini-

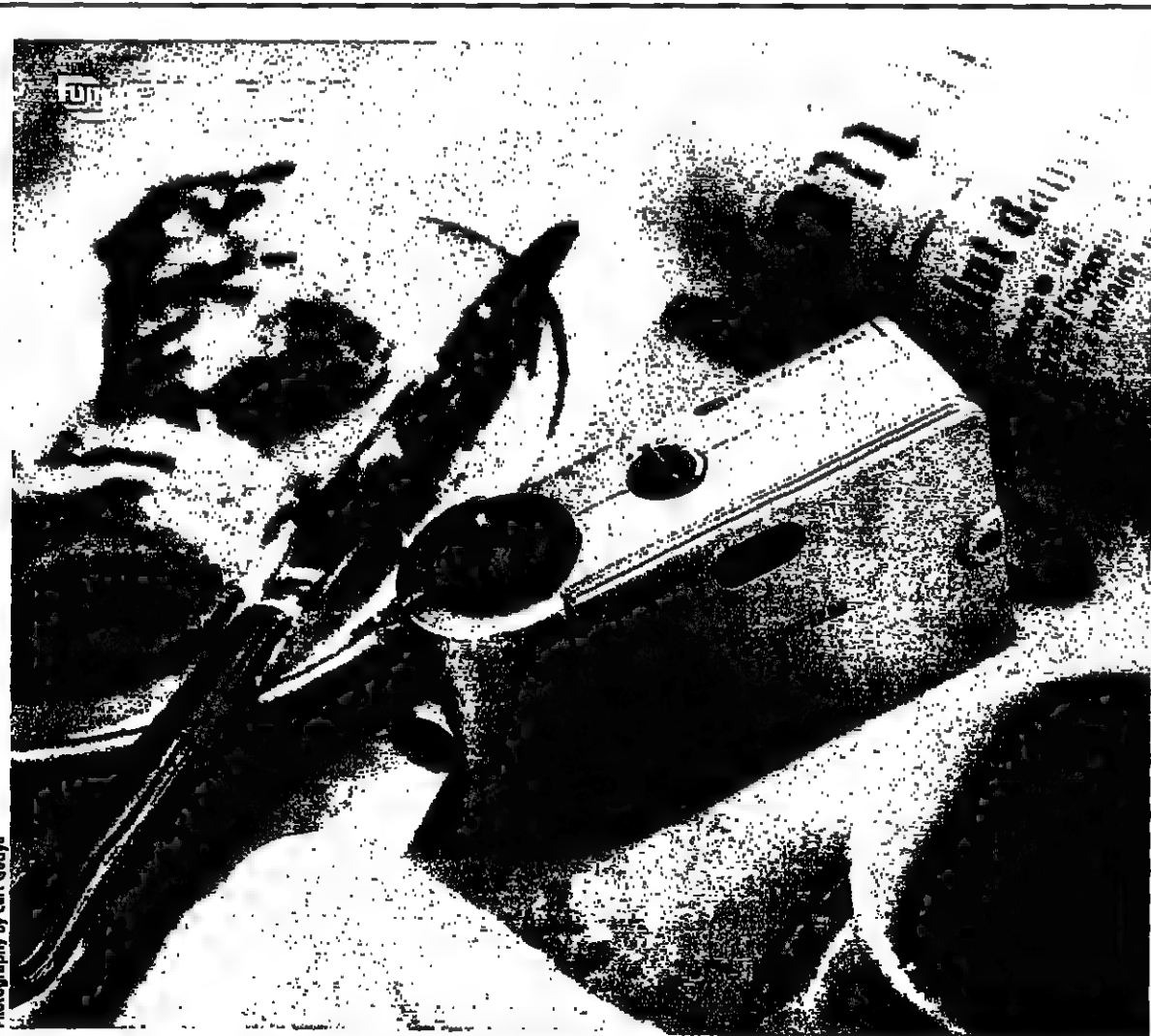
mum of features, leave the focusing and exposure to the photographer. Pay more, and SLRs offer every feature you could want, from autofocus to sophisticated exposure systems. SLRs aren't as difficult as you might think. Most have autofocus and integral flashguns and offer fully automatic program modes that make them easy to use.

SLRs tend to be larger and heavier than most compacts

and more expensive. There are only a few APS SLRs available, but the general facts above also apply to them. An SLR is the one to go for if you want more versatility and better quality than a compact.

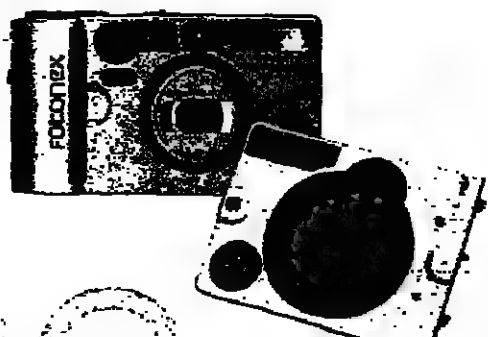
■ **Medium-format SLRs:** These expensive cameras use a type of film referred to as rollifilm and can produce images ranging in size from 6x4.5cm to 6x7cm. The extremely high image quality makes them the choice for many professionals. Their large bulk and heavy weight means they are more suitable for use in a studio.

● The author is technical editor of *Practical Photography*.



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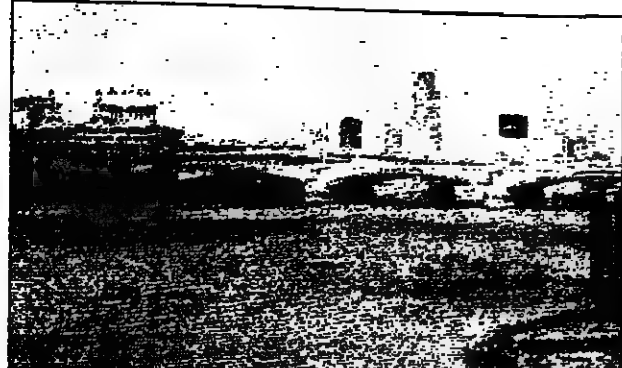
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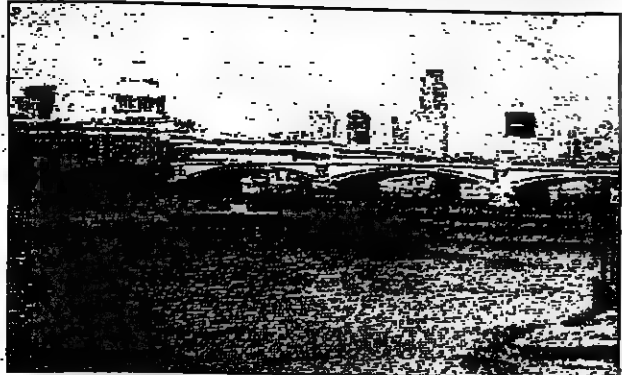
FREE

Do not forget to load the film

Damien Demolder on ten simple ways to improve your photography



Camera shake, above, can ruin a picture. Below, how the picture appears when the camera is held still



1 The single biggest cause of failed photographs is incorrectly loaded film. This should not affect APS (Advanced Photo System) cameras, but 35mm photographers should load with care. If your camera has an LCD screen it will probably tell you how many pictures you have taken. When you have loaded a film make sure the LCD shows '1' and not 'E' (error). On many manual-loading cameras you can see the rewind spindle rotate as you advance the film.

2 You don't have to spend forever looking through the viewfinder, but do take your time to find the best angle or shooting position so that you are really happy with what is in the frame.

3 Once you have framed your subject in the viewfinder, scan the surrounding areas for any distracting ob-

TOP TIPS

jects in the foreground and background. Watch out particularly for trees or lamp posts growing from a person's body, and items such as wall-mounted lampshades that appear to be balanced on your subject's head.

4 Photographs are often disappointing because the subject is too far from the camera, thus appearing too small in the final print. To create more impact, move in close so you fill the viewfinder with the person or object you are photographing.

5 Long lenses and zooms are great for catching people unawares and looking natural. Longer lenses also help to create a more flatter-



Flash, right, has a big effect compared with none, left

ing portrait as they reduce the impact of certain strong facial features. A kind of instant nose-job.

6 When using a long lens, or an extended zoom lens, brace yourself against something solid, such as a wall or a



the focal length of the lens. For example, if you have fitted a 200mm lens, set the shutter speed dial to at least 1/200th (i.e. 1/250th on most cameras). With a 50mm lens don't drop below 1/50th.

7 Flash photography needn't be confined to indoors or nighttime. Use your flash outside, too, when photographing friends or family in sunny conditions. The extra burst of light reduces the harsh shadows caused by direct sunlight and will add an attractive glint to the eyes.

8 There are many speeds of film available that are best suited to certain conditions. Use ISO 100 or 200 for normal or bright weather. Load ISO 400 on a dull day or if you are going to be

taking photos indoors with flash. ISO 800 is good for catching the atmosphere in bright interiors so you may not need flash. Flash can "kill" the warm glow of a nicely lit room.

9 In six out of ten pictures of a group, there will almost certainly be someone with their eyes closed. You can't beat this statistic, but you can improve your chances of success by taking more than one shot. The same applies to any picture that is important or will be unrepeatable. Always take at least two.

10 Reread (or read for the first time) the camera's handbook. Many cameras have facilities that are not immediately obvious. These may help to improve your creativity, or just increase your success rate.

● The author is a technical writer for Photo Technique.

Choosing a camera at any price is difficult. Steve Fairclough develops his no-nonsense guide to the best from under £50

How you can zoom in on a bargain

Donning the guise of Michael Caine, I must say: "At any one time there are 500 cameras you could buy in British stores. Not a lot of people know that."

That figure is academic as the majority of us just want a nice reliable "runner", something that will take a few good pictures without any trouble.

To cut a swath through the jungle, I have chosen a handful of the best cameras you can buy for under £500. Here are my recommendations:

Under £50: Minolta AF Big Finder (£40)

As you would expect for the price, this is a simple model. It offers the autofocus ability and has a large viewfinder. Film winding and rewind is automatic and this model will appeal as a family camera that children use.

£50-£100: Ricoh AF-80 (£80)

A retro-styled camera with controls around the lens at the front. It has an esoteric design, the choice of either automatic or manual control and a variety of preset shooting modes. In tests, it has proved to have a crisp lens. The built-in flash also activates automatically in low light.

Olympus MJU II (£160)

Ask for a "Mew" in shops —

that is the pronunciation for a range of Olympus compact cameras that has sold more than 10 million worldwide. This is a worthy addition with a superb lens and a wide variety of flash modes. A special camera at a very good price. One of the compact cameras that lives up to that name.

Under £150: Canon IXUS L-1 (£120)

Better in pure photographic terms than its IXUS sister model, the L-1 benefits from a better lens that can work in lower light conditions. This is a sleek, pocket-sized wonder that will make your friends jealous.

£150-£250: Konica Revio (£200)

A slimline, silver-bodied APS zoom compact that has a tough cover and easy-to-hand controls. It was designed in response to Canon's successful

IXUS APS camera, but has almost "outIXUSed" that camera. It features a versatile built-in flash unit.

Canon IXUS (£230)

If Tara Palmer-Tomkinson is the IT girl, this is the IT camera. Though fairly old at two years, it still dangles off the waists of supermodels and rock stars. Housed in a stainless-steel body, it is a design classic. It is a triumph of looks over substance: IXUS owners can be assured of catching the eye.

£250-£400: Minolta Vectis 300 (£260)

An imaginatively tailored APS zoom compact that has the double benefit of great design with superb results. It has a 3x zoom lens, a very wide selection of flash modes and the ever-present APS camera ability to shoot in one of three sizes of picture format (with a combination

of all three available on a single film).

Fuji DL Super Mini Zoom (£300)

A 35mm zoom compact that you can see James Bond slipping into his pocket. With a sleek silver body and a 28-56mm built-in zoom lens, it scores on lens quality and the facility to manually alter most settings. A flexible compact that handles superbly.

Minolta Dynax 505ai (£400)

The latest autofocus single lens reflex (SLR) is a "must see" model with a two-tone body and internal workings crammed with the essentials. Available in two kits — £330 with a standard zoom lens or £400 with a new 28-80mm silver-barrelled zoom lens.

Canon DX7 (£400)

Probably the best consumer model in the UK's top-selling autofocus SLR range, this APS

reflex camera delivers easy control, a dinky body and a huge lens back-up. It excels in the design department with easy-to-use controls and a lightweight feel. Due to icon-driven control dials, the DX7 can be easily understood and, like many of its Canon cousins, it scores on both aesthetic and fundamental levels.

Money no object: Nikon F5 (from £1,599 body only)

Today's top 35mm SLR is the beloved possession of many professional photographers who need the speed to ensure that they get every photograph. This camera can shoot five pictures every second and inside stores up to 30,000 pre-set shooting situations. To say the mind boggles is an understatement but if you have the money, this camera will make most of your photographic dreams come true.

● The author is the Editor of What Camera.



Top of the range: the Nikon F5 with AF Nikkor 50mm f/1.4D. From £1,599, body only

Perfect image of your needs

THE first time that more than one camera or film manufacturer decided to launch a film format was in 1996 when Kodak, Fuji, Nikon, Canon and Minolta put their heads together to come up with the advanced photo system (APS). Joël Lacey writes. The film

ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM

format was designed to deal with some of the problems consumers had complained about over the years. What they wanted was an easy-to-load film that gave quality

results, a better method of picture-filing, which would eliminate the need to handle strips of negatives and which gave them the chance to use different shapes.

The result of this collaboration was APS: a simple cartridge design that contains a lot of clever technology. One of the most noticeable features is the ability to take pictures in three different format shapes: classic (which has the same aspect ratio as traditional 35mm film); HDTV (which has a 16:9 long side to short side ratio); and Panoramic, which gives a 2.5:1 letterbox shape similar to that in which big screen movies are projected. These are selected by a switch on the camera. The film is based along the same lines as traditional films and is developed in the same chemicals, but there the similarity ends.

The film has a magnetic coating which has data recorded as the film is used. This includes format choice, the orientation of the cartridge (so that the film knows where the sun is in any outdoor pictures), whether flash was used, what format of picture the user wants and the date and time a picture was taken. The data is read by the processing machine and the pictures printed in the correct format (from 6x4in to 10x4in) and with all the lighting data taken into account to get the best print. Many cameras have a failsafe film door lock that ensures the camera cannot be opened before the film has been rewound, to prevent fogging.

THERE are many other possibilities, depending on the camera. These include the printing of appropriate titles (for example "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Christmas") on the back of the print. Some cameras let you change films mid-roll, with the unexposed film on a roll being recorded so that, when you put a film back into the camera, it automatically winds to the first unexposed frame, preventing double exposures.

When you send your films for processing, you get them back in the same cartridge in which you sent them. With the film and your prints, you get an index print that shows a thumbnail-sized picture of all the images on the film on a single sheet of paper.

APS cameras in the zoom compact sector now account for 40 per cent of cameras sold in that category.

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NEWS

Archer to face Tory ethics inquiry

Conservative chiefs have decided to subject Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare to the first investigation by its powerful new ethics and integrity committee if he pursues his dream of becoming Mayor of London.

The devastating blow to the millionaire novelist's campaign has been dealt by his close friend Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, who has accepted that the former MP Sir Timothy Kison's complaints about Lord Archer's colourful past cannot go unanswered. **Pages 1, 6**

Eritreans fight off border attack

Ethiopian forces launched an offensive to recapture the border town of Zalambessa, bombarding Eritrean trenches with a massive pre-dawn artillery barrage. But the Eritrean forces successfully counter-attacked. **Page 1**

Giant celebration

France kicked off the World Cup with a huge street party involving 65-ft plastic giants, a troop of chivalrous pygmies and as much hoopla as the state could muster. **Pages 1, 5**

Doctors' success rate

Patients are to get the right to find out the success rates of doctors who are to operate on them, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said. **Page 1**

£20,000 shackles

The prison service is to pay £20,000 damages to a former woman prisoner whose shackling while she was pregnant sparked a political controversy. **Page 1**

City car fee

John Prescott has ordered officials to speed up the drafting of new laws allowing motorists to be charged for driving in city centres. **Page 2**

Baby for missing man

The wife of a doctor who vanished eight months ago has given birth to his son. Last night she begged her missing husband: "Come home and see your new baby". **Page 3**

Witnesses protected

Frightened victims of crime and vulnerable witnesses are to be shielded by screens when they give evidence in an attempt to stop defendants intimidating them. **Page 4**

D. H. Lawrence may be brought home

D.H. Lawrence may soon be repatriated. The writer died in 1930 in the South of France but, since 1935, his cremated remains have lain in a concrete block in a shrine in Taos, New Mexico. A move to bring him home to Nottingham has been prompted by dismay in this country that the shrine is crumbling. **Page 9**

Woodward claim

The lawyer sacked by Louise Woodward claimed that the au pair's mother was a liar and a fraud. **Page 7**

Anaesthetist accused

A ten-year-old girl needing surgery on her front teeth, which had been broken in a playground fall, died after an anaesthetist failed to use important equipment, the General Medical Council was told. **Page 8**

Nigeria demand

The Commonwealth called for the release of all political prisoners in Nigeria and insisted that all parties should take part in the August elections. **Page 14**

EU curbs needed

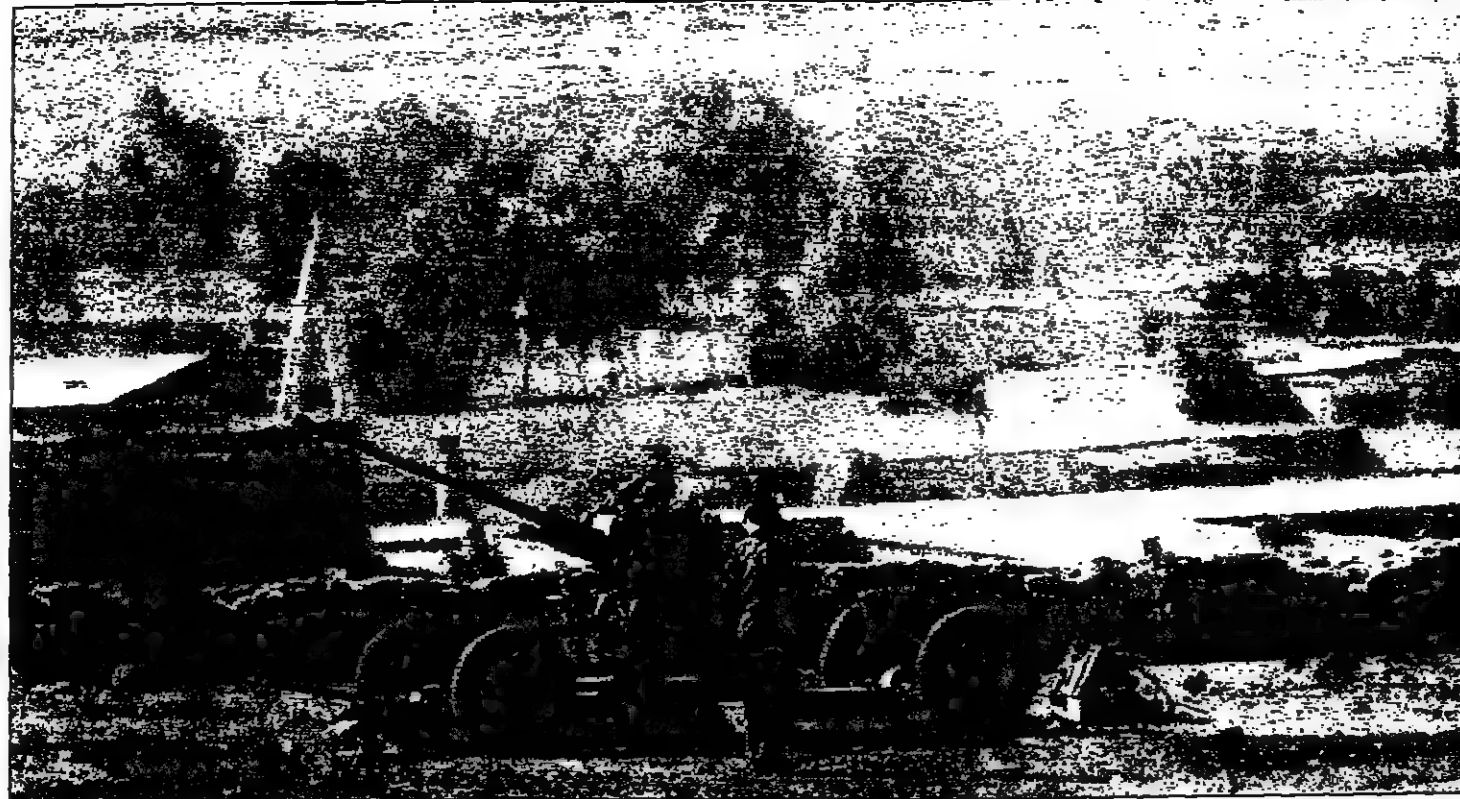
Tony Blair endorsed a Franco-German push for next week's European Union summit to pave the way for curbs on the EU's centralised powers. **Page 15**

Tax fraud arrest

The head of Russia's central statistical committee has been arrested on suspicion of organising a huge fraud to help several big companies to avoid paying taxes. **Page 16**

Basic training

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, caused a storm of protest after he endorsed mixed sex training in the armed forces over the strong objections of Congress. **Page 17**



Eritrean artillerymen watching for Ethiopian bombers coming in to attack their capital of Asmara yesterday. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Bid alert: Thistle Hotels could be the target of a £2 billion takeover battle after being approached by several potential buyers. **Page 27**

Recession fear: Manufacturers are in danger of slipping further into recession, raising fresh doubts over the Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates last week. **Page 27**

Pay rise: Tom Viner, who retired from J Sainsbury at the beginning of this year, picked up nearly £1 million from the company in 1997 even though he had been removed from his job. **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 18 to 6019.8. The pound rose to 103.9 from 103.6, rising 34 cents to \$1.6361 and rising 92 pence to DM2.9113. **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: As Scotland prepare to take on Brazil in the opening match of the World Cup, Paris remains a city of contrasts, much of it different to the hype. **Page 32**

Cricket: Leicestershire will meet Essex in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup after they beat Surrey and Yorkshire respectively in the semi-finals. **Page 30**

Rugby union: Clive Woodward, the England coach, put blame on himself for England's thrashing by Australia in the opening match of their tour. **Page 42**

Racing: A devastating critique of the British Horseracing Board's financial plan will present Peter Savill with his first significant challenge as the board's chairman. **Page 43**

ARTS

Real life: Film documentaries are popular and profitable in the United States but here in Britain it looks as if the poor old documentary is in danger of being totally forgotten. **Page 38**

Playing with time: Jules Verne's short story about time has now been turned into an opera by Gavin Bryars and Blake Morrison. Doctor Ox's Experiment will be unveiled at the Coliseum. **Page 39**

Brassy drama: Paul Allen's fine adaptation of Mark Herman's film *Brassed Off* arrives at the National Theatre. **Page 40**

Versatile strings: The cellist Caroline Dale is pushing the boundaries between classical music and pop, and now she has a band to call her own. **Page 41**

FEATURES

Judgment: Charlotte Kane found jury service sobering. **Page 18**

Offline: Sometimes, it is good to keep your electronic address a secret. Damian Whitworth goes off-message. **Page 18**

Invention: Forget little green men, the modern world was partly invented by the authors of our most popular literary form. **Page 19**

Star letter: A passionate letter revealing her sex life has made a star of the woman tipped to be Finland's next president. **Page 19**

FOCUS

Frame games: Digital cameras, compact, SLRs, budget, film; an introduction to the fast-changing world of photography. **Pages 24, 25**

HOUSES

Gone with the wind: The household that saw its service bills blown away by windpower. **Page 36**

THE PAPERS

Abacha's death brings home the whole crisis of leadership in Africa. Africans pay too little attention to the calibre of those who must lead them. Leaders are not gods nor are they headmen whose authority cannot be challenged. Africans must simply learn to accept that their leaders are human beings with the same human failings that they know about from their own experience. **— The Post, Zambia**

TOMORROW

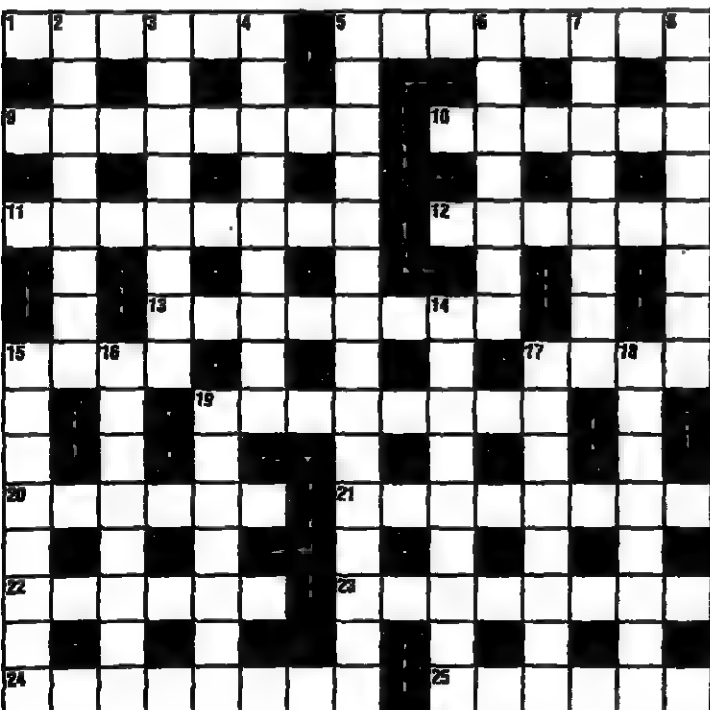
IN THE TIMES

FILMS
Robert Duvall in *The Apostle*, which he wrote, directed and produced

BOOKS
Amanda Foreman scours the sculleries and drawing rooms of Georgian England



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,814



- ACROSS**
- Incentive to bear this saint (6).
 - Untrustworthy as Janus (3-5).
 - Such bench marks could be erratic, I found (8).
 - Tragedy less hard to take in Verdi's version (6).
 - Holmes had one — Dr. Watson, too? (8).
 - At a cost of about a pound in old money (6).
 - Extremely bad light may (8).
 - Mother Nature's opening blast (4).
 - Work hard to produce painting on time (4).
 - Deep split produced by clergyman and stupid person in church (6).
 - Runs into loss, leading to poverty (6).
 - Attempt to impress with style and taste (4-4).
- DOWN**
- Boy's on song, forming simple collections (8).
 - Religious type taking out some suit he randomly selected (8).
 - Actor in theatre turned up late (9).
 - 'Deep Gratias' shows up in Yanks having it, possibly (12-5).
 - Join stout friend in disastrous way (7).
 - American's mood, going to a party in this state (8).
 - Article in sort of old iron that's totally lifeless (8).
 - International attempt to produce inflammatory strike? (4,5).
 - Duck initially and then trump? On your head be it (8).
 - A hat with a rim specially designed for intriguing danceuse (4,4).
 - Bear with primarily bloody obnoxious youth such as this? (5,3).
 - No such complaint when a kipper's cured? (8).
 - Queen's entrance (3-4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20813

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P L E A S A N T I N A
R E C E D E D W E L L S E T
C O R T A E
O U E M E R C A T O R
L O N G S T O P I N P
A S S U I E
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 1998

Suitors set to do £2bn battle for Thistle

By Dominic Walsh

A £2 BILLION bid battle is in prospect after Thistle Hotels, the UK's second-biggest hotelier, yesterday revealed it had received a number of approaches. Shares in Thistle jumped 37p to an all-time high of 237½p.

The identity of the bidders has not been revealed, although Starwood Hotels & Resorts, the US real estate investment trust (REIT), is thought to be among the four or five interested parties.

Thistle's announcement, which comes in the wake of Stakis's rumoured approach to Vaux, sparked a flurry of buying in other hotel stocks. Ladbroke, which is believed to be hatching a deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation (HHC), gained 19½p to 355p, while Stakis added 5p to 138p.

The Thistle board said it had "received approaches from third parties which may or may not lead to an offer for the company". It declined to elaborate, although the appointment of Greenhill & Co, a US firm, as its financial adviser could be telling. A key figure in Greenhill's London office is Simon Borrowes, formerly head of corporate finance at ING Barings, who advised Savoy Group on its recent sale to Blackstone Group of the US for £520 million.

Sarah Ellis, leisure analyst

at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, said: "It is significant that Thistle is being advised by a firm of US advisers. It would definitely suggest a US investor as the most likely buyer."

Recent statements by Starwood, owner of the Sheraton and Westin chains, would appear to support the theory that the REIT is the favourite to snap up Thistle. It recently declared its intention to more than double its number of rooms in London to more than 3,000, and buying Thistle, London's biggest hotelier,

US buyers move in... 31

would be an obvious way of achieving that.

But a host of other US investors are scouring Europe for possible acquisitions, including Strategic Hotel Capital Incorporated, which recently forged an alliance with Stakis. Other observers said interest from securities houses such as Nomura International and Nikko could not be ruled out.

Before yesterday's share rise Thistle carried a value of around £1.5 billion, but if more than one serious bidder emerges the price could easily reach between £1.8 billion and

£2 billion. Any deal will depend on the agreement of its biggest shareholder, Brierley Investments of New Zealand, which floated the company in 1996 and retains 46 per cent. But the poor performance of the investment in Thistle, which has only recently broken through Brierley's break-even price of 200p a share, is expected to ensure an enthusiastic response to any offers.

In September, shares in Thistle dipped to 121p, compared with a flotation price of 170p, and in November Robert Peel was forced to resign after 20 years as chief executive. His replacement, Ian Burke, recently instigated plans to sell off 30 of the smaller hotels worth around £100 million. The group currently has 91 hotels, with just under 13,000 rooms, of which almost 6,500 are in London.

The Thistle approaches are the latest to hit the hotel sector following the Savoy sale and approaches to Cliveden and Vaux. The latter is thought to be discussing a £500 million-plus deal with Stakis, which would then offload the group's pub and brewing operations.

Meanwhile, Ladbroke is thought to be discussing an \$8 billion acquisition of HHC's US Hilton hotels, allowing it to reunify the Hilton brand worldwide.



Sir Bernard, pictured with daughter Jane, wants to concentrate on other business interests

Sir Bernard Ashley quits

By Sarah Cunningham
Retail Correspondent

SIR BERNARD ASHLEY, co-founder and former chairman of Laura Ashley, quit the board yesterday, ending a 45-year career at the company. He is retaining his 21 per cent stake in the business and his son Nicholas, a former design director, takes his place as a non-executive director.

Sir Bernard, 71, took control of the clothing and furnishings manufacturer and retailer and saw it through its flotation after his wife's fatal accident in 1985. He has since overseen five

changes of chief executive. Sir Bernard's share in the company was heavily diluted when MUI, a Malaysian conglomerate, bailed it out of financial trouble earlier this year. The family stake is now worth £28 million against about £175 million three years ago.

John Thornton, the current chairman, said Sir Bernard told him of his intention to leave some weeks ago. The rest of the board was told yesterday morning, and shareholders were informed later at the annual meeting. Mr Thornton said that Sir Bernard wishes to concentrate on his other activities, such as his hotel business.

Industry output shows a fall over last year

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

MANUFACTURERS are in danger of slipping further into recession, raising fresh doubts over the Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates last week.

New data published yesterday showed that manufacturing output rose by just 0.1 per cent between March and April but was 0.2 per cent lower than in the same month last year — the first annual drop in output for nearly two years.

The figures, which closely follow weaker than expected retail sales statistics, prompted City analysts, who were largely opposed to the quarter-point rate rise, to question further the logic of the Bank's decision last Thursday.

Economists said the figures confirmed that manufacturing is in recession and predicted that figures in the next few months could be worse. The survey evidence points to an even sharper slowdown in output and rising job losses in the sector, they said.

The City believes, however, that the new data will have little impact on the interest rate debate as the Bank remains chiefly concerned with the service sector and earnings growth.

There was speculation the Bank voted unanimously in favour of a rate rise, ending several months of division. Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Those MPC members for a rate rise last week are unlikely to question the wisdom of that decision and the first cut in rates remains a long way off."

Overall industrial production climbed by 1.0 per cent between March and April leaving the annual rate of increase at 1.2 per cent. The Office for National Statistics said the unexpected increase was after a jump in utilities output following cold weather.

The pound made further gains after weak German industrial production figures ended fears of a rate rise. Sterling climbed 1½p to DM2.9113.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	6018.8 (-18.0)
FTSE All Share	2,745 (-5.84)
Nikkei	15530.17 (+235.46)
New York	8051.91 (-17.59)
Dow Jones	1116.71 (+0.59)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	104.74% (104.74%)
Yield	5.80% (5.78%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7.75% (7.75%)
12-month Libor	108.32 (108.42)
STERLING	
New York	1.5338* (1.5332)
London	1.5367 (1.5327)
DM	2.9128 (2.9021)
FF	1.4772* (1.4750)
SP	2.4172 (2.4118)
Yen	225.68 (225.25)
E index	103.9 (103.8)
DOLLAR	
London	1.7800* (1.7800)
FF	5.9710* (5.9673)
Yen	140.18* (140.67)
E index	112.0 (112.1)
Tokyo close Yen 140.32	
WORTHEN'S OIL	
Brent 16-day (Aug)	\$14.60 (\$14.70)
GOLD	
London close	\$368.65 (\$368.25)
* Previous midday trading price	

Retiring Vyner gets £1m

By Sarah Cunningham
Retail Correspondent

TOM VYNER, who retired from J Sainsbury at the beginning of this year, picked up nearly £1 million from the company in 1997 even though he no longer ran the chain of supermarkets.

Mr Vyner handed over day-to-day running of the business to Dino Adriano, now group chief executive, in March last

year, nine months earlier than expected. He was made deputy chairman.

For the nine months up to retirement, he was paid a basic salary of £475,000, plus a long-term incentive scheme bonus of £333,000. With profit sharing and benefits worth £24,000 his total pay was £832,000, compared with £527,000 a year earlier. He also received £139,000 on options exercised during the year

and was granted a further 119,622 options. A company spokesman said he had no explanation for why Mr Vyner's pay was increased so much.

Last year Mr Adriano earned £728,000, up from £309,000. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, the outgoing chairman, was paid £471,000, up from £343,000.

Commentary, page 29

Coopers saddled with a loser

By Jason Nisse

COOPERS & LYBRAND was yesterday forced into a grovelling apology to the British Horseracing Board, which has threatened to sack the accountancy firm as its auditor after Coopers penned a report critical of the BHB's financial plans for racing.

The report, published yesterday, was commissioned by the Betting Office Licences Association (BOLA), an organisation representing bookmakers, which is concerned that the BHB's scheme to raise an extra £105 million a year to support racing will hit bookies' profits.

The study concluded that "the solutions offered were impracticable and would not achieve their objectives, and that in the unlikely event of the

Government acting on the BHB's recommendations, the outcome would be negative for both betting and racing".

Coopers' role in the attack on its own client's financial plans was made abundantly clear by BOLA, which said yesterday: "The views contained in the report are entirely those of Coopers & Lybrand and have not been influenced by BOLA in any way."

Tom Kelly, general secretary of BOLA, added Coopers had been hired to produce the report because it was a reputable firm. "We were not even aware that Coopers were auditors of the BHB."

However, Coopers' role in the BOLA report was the main topic of debate at the annual general meeting of the BHB



Savill: deferred ballot

which, by coincidence, also took place yesterday.

Peter Savill, the newly appointed chairman of the BHB, deferred a vote on the re-

appointment of Coopers as auditors and is planning to replace them at next month's board meeting. A spokesman said: "They've got a lot of explaining to do."

Coopers was last night contrite, saying the report was written by its economics unit, which was not aware of the firm's role as auditors to BHB. "We are extremely embarrassed about the situation," a spokeswoman said. "On this rare occasion procedures did break down, but there was no professional conflict of interest and we hope we will be retained by BHB."

However, BHB sources indicated that Coopers would have a tough task retaining the auditing role. "If I was a betting man — which I am — I would bet they will be replaced," said the source.

Springer close to Mirror bid

By Richard Miles

AXEL SPRINGER, Germany's largest newspaper group, is expected to make a formal bid approach to Mirror Group before the end of this month (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Gus Fischer, chairman of Springer, is believed to be pushing ahead with preparations and the money to finance a possible bid is already in place.

Mirror shares have already shot up in recent months from 180p to yesterday's closing price of 233½p.

The German group is now assessing the impact of the departure of Kevin MacKenzie, the Mirror Group's deputy chief executive, to mount a bid for Talk Radio, the commercial station.

Talk bid, page 29

Liverpool Victoria fined for salesforce behaviour

By Richard Miles

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA, the UK's biggest friendly society, is facing a six-figure fine after an investigation by regulators uncovered a string of serious compliance breaches.

The society is believed to have begun talks with the Personal Investment Authority about the size of the fine, and when it should be published. The negotiations could drag on for 12 months.

Changes levelled against Liverpool Victoria include a failure to provide adequate training for its door-to-door salesforce, as well as a failure to control their behaviour in the field.

Liverpool Victoria admitted yesterday that it was "in dialogue" with the PIA about a series of regulatory problems which came to light last autumn, but said it was too early to say what the result of those talks would be.

A spokesman said: "We are far on in the process of rectification of those issues. However, we are further back in what might lead to in terms of disciplinary action. It would be speculative to anticipate the outcome of that process."

In October, Liverpool Victoria was forced to suspend its 270-strong sales staff when it became apparent that its

records of employee references and training were inadequate, and so unlikely to meet PIA standards. Further gaps in its compliance regime were discovered subsequently.

At the time, Roy Hurley, the chief executive, admitted that staff had been stretched almost to breaking point as it reorganised its 1,400 premium collection agents and relocated its head office to Bournemouth.

The friendly society manages in excess of £4 billion, largely on behalf of savers on low income.

The PIA said that it never commented on individual disciplinary cases.

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Complaints to PIA jump 50%

Complaints to the main investors' watchdog, the PIA Ombudsman, leapt by 50 per cent to almost 7,000 last year.

Anthony Holland, the principal ombudsman, said the rise reflected the growing demand for financial services and the increasing sophistication of consumers.

Mr Holland said a growing source of dispute was over permanent health insurance, particularly where insurers refused to disclose video evidence they had gathered before withholding payment of a claim. Mr Holland said video evidence had to be disclosed.

Kalon fears

Shares in Kalon, the UK decorative paints company, fell 26 per cent as it issued a profits warning, saying bad weather during the past six weeks had hit sales in the UK and France. It said it was uncertain what effect the World Cup in France would have this month, which is normally one of the biggest for sales. The shares fell from 184p to 146p. Kalon is 60 per cent owned by Total of France, whose shares also fell. *Tempus, page 30*

Readicut plan

Readicut, the textiles group, wants to sell Whiteley Willows, its rugs business, and is reviewing Plastisers Engineering, its fibres machinery business. Readicut losses before tax were £28.4 million for the year to March 31 (£10 million profit, on sales of £258 million (£285 million)). The total dividend is held at 2.58p a 1.95p final. Adjusted earnings stay at 3.28p.

Gazprom plea

Gazprom urged the Russian Government yesterday to consider a sale of part of its holding in the gas company to one of its strategic partners, Shell or ENI, the Italian energy company, to raise \$1 billion for the cash-strapped public finances.



Fair shares: workers in the City tuck in to cakes at the launch of the Stock Exchange's Share Aware campaign

City's taste for shares campaign

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE London Stock Exchange doled out free cup cakes to hungry stockbrokers yesterday at the launch of its "Share Aware" campaign.

The feeding frenzy was supposed to reflect the excitement and reward of being a shareholder in Hot Cakes plc, a fictional company.

The Exchange, stockbrokers and the nine companies featured in the campaign are putting up £1 million this year to tell the public how to "get your share of Great British companies".

The slogan will hit posters on 200 main line stations this month and will be the basis of widespread newspaper advertising.

However, there are no plans to advertise on TV, despite the success of Nasdaq, the rival US exchange, which is currently raising its profile with a multimillion-pound campaign. There will, however, be a new Internet service and a telephone "hot line".

Government lambasted for absence of an energy policy

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday came under fire from a cross-party committee of MPs for failing to establish an energy policy.

Criticism from the Trade and Industry Select Committee came after the Government's handling of last year's crisis in the coal industry and the subsequent energy review.

The committee's own review into energy said: "It may be thought surprising that the Government should, after a year and more in office, still be without an energy policy; and that it should have been in office for six months before the absence of such a policy was noted and acted upon."

The report said the Government could not escape criticism for its lack of action "especially in view of the

uncertainty created in the coal industry and the offshore oil and gas industry".

Martin O'Neill, Labour chairman of the committee, said that the Government had acted after it had become clear that talks between RJB, the biggest coal producer, and the generators were not going well "but to some extent they have been chasing the game".

David Prior, a Conservative member of the committee,

said the involvement of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in striking a deal to secure a market for coal, had only caused confusion.

The committee also called on the Government to lift its moratorium on new gas-fired power stations that was imposed last December to throw a lifeline to coal. While the MPs said that deep-mined coal in the UK should be safeguarded to ensure energy

diversity, Mr O'Neill said that the moratorium was "a blunt instrument". He denied there was a contradiction between trying to preserve coal but simultaneously allowing gas generation to grow.

The committee further attacked the Government for lacking leadership in energy technology development and export strategy.

Nuclear power was pushed back on to the agenda by the report. It said that, in order to balance environmental and energy requirements, "new nuclear plant may be required in the next two decades". The MPs acknowledged, however, that a new nuclear initiative would require a big shift in public opinion.

John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said: "The committee is right to state the Government for its failure to deliver an energy policy, for its failure to open up energy markets, and for its sidelining of the DTI."

Generators prevent cheaper bills

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY customers are not getting power as cheaply as they might have expected because of a jump in charges from the generators.

Generating costs have increased 20 per cent in the year to April and have eroded bill

reductions for domestic and business customers, according to a report on international electricity prices. The report, by National Utility Services, said the figures poured doubt on the effectiveness of competition and non-regulation in generation to deliver price reductions. Andrew Johns, director of National Utility Services, said:

"It appears that the unregulated element of the electricity industry—generation—is not delivering the savings that were predicted."

Mr Johns said the market-place for electricity, which enables three generators to set the price of power most of the time, needs to be reconsidered. Electricity prices in the UK

fell 12 per cent over the year as a result of a new pricing formula for distribution by the regional electricity companies. The UK remains the seventh-most-expensive country for electricity out of 16 countries examined by National Utility Services. Italy was the most expensive and Australia the least expensive.

Profits dry up as Severn customers switch to meters

By ADAM JONES

SHARES in Severn Trent fell yesterday as the water supplier, whose income has been squeezed by the growing popularity of household metering, announced a modest increase in annual profits.

In the year to March 31, Severn, which is based in Birmingham, made pre-tax profits of £374 million (£366.5 million). The shares fell 55p to 990p.

Vic Cocker, chief executive, said about 50,000 households a year are introducing water meters, cutting profits by £6 million. About 14 per cent of domestic customers are now metered and the take-up rate shows no signs of falling. Water-saving measures adopted by industry wiped another £10 million from profits.

Mr Cocker said Severn is expecting further news shortly about the privatisation of water services in Berlin. It wants the operating contract and may team up with a partner to take a stake in Bertinwasser, the local supplier.

Severn spent £516 million on capital investment in the year and it said profits were also constrained by a £30-a-cus-

tomers rebate scheme, running over five years.

Severn missed its 20 per cent profits growth target in non-regulated activities, managing only 11.5 per cent.

Earnings per share, hit by a £310 million windfall tax payment, were 43p, down from 87.2p. A second interim dividend of 3.84p and a final 24.37p makes a total of 39.76p (36.5p). Payment will be delayed until April 6, 1999, because of the abolition of ACT and an additional interest payment of 1.36p per share will be made.



Cocker: German hopes

Wessex Water plans share buyback and acquisitions

By ADAM JONES

WESSEX WATER is to spend up to £450 million on acquisitions or a return of capital to investors.

Nick Hood, the chairman, said yesterday that the water supply and waste management group would be using its "strong" balance sheet to increase unregulated earnings and "maximise the return to shareholders".

He was announcing a 4 per cent fall in profits last year, which occurred despite a 5 per cent rise in sales to £266 million. Profits before tax fell from £145 million to £139

million in the year to March 31 after interest charges were swelled by a windfall tax payment and share buyback.

Fully diluted earnings per share were 3.9p, down from 43.5p, after Wessex swallowed the £99 million windfall charge, which was worth 46.1p per share. A final dividend of 14.1p per share will be paid on September 1, making a total of 20.6p for the year (18p). The shares fell 4p to 479p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 548p.

Wessex said it remained committed to the develop-

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Card Clear directors resign over payment

BRIAN RAVEN, chief executive, and Oliver Cooke, finance director, yesterday resigned with immediate effect from Card Clear, the AIM-listed credit card and fraud prevention company. Card Clear said their departure "relates to the misrepresentation by them to the board and its advisers as to the nature of a payment". The company refused to elaborate on the payment but Card Clear said the amount was not material and was not intended to provide either with personal gain.

Card Clear shares fell 15p to 62p. Neither director will receive compensation although Mr Cooke will retain one million of 2.6 million share options with an exercise price of 500,000 of 3.6 million share options with an exercise price of 41p. Mr Raven also has 958,000 founders' options exercisable at 12p. Nigel Whittaker, at present non-executive chairman, becomes executive chairman. The company believes trading will continue in line with the board's expectations.

Servomex shares dip 65p

SHARES in Servomex, the industrial instrumentation group, fell 65p to 247p yesterday after a downturn in second-quarter orders prompted a profits warning. The bad news comes hard on the heels of signs of recovery, with a 13.5 per cent rise in orders reported for the year to March 31. The board is confident full-year pre-tax profits will come in ahead of the previous year's profits of £33.2 million before non-recurring costs.

Europe revamp for Field

KEITH GILCHRIST, chief executive of Field, the paper and packaging group, is to streamline the company's two French businesses into one that will supply the whole of southern Europe. Field raised pre-tax profits by 12.4 per cent to £24.1 million in the year to April 4 on sales up 12.5 per cent to £245 million. Earnings rose 11.3 per cent to 30.5p and the full-year dividend goes up from 9.4p to 10.4p after payment of a 7p final.

Motor dealer speeds up

EUROPEAN Motor Holdings, the BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar dealer, raised pre-tax profits 17 per cent to £10.2 million in the year to March 31, on sales up 21 per cent to £470.4 million. Earnings rose 18 per cent to 13.2p. The total dividend rises 9 per cent to 6.1p. A final dividend of 3.5p is proposed. Richard Palmer, chief executive, said: "Our order book and the current sales of new vehicles continue to give us optimism for the year ahead." The sale of non-core business is expected to continue.

Portland attacks tax rise

GREAT Portland Estates yesterday reported that the tripling of stamp duty since May 1997 had effectively devalued the company's portfolio by £30 million, or 8p per share. In the 12 months to March 31 rents jumped more than 10 per cent to £108 million, although pre-tax profits slipped 3 per cent to £44.7 million. Great Portland said it would pay an unchanged final dividend of 6.1p on July 17. This takes the total dividend to 9p, again unchanged. *Commentary, page 29*

Pound takes toll on BTP

BTP, the chemicals group, raised pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £53.2 million on sales up 8 per cent to £439 million in the year to March 31. John Kettleby, the chairman, said that profits would have grown by 30 per cent had it not been for the Asian economic crisis and the strong pound. Total dividend rises from 11.75p to 12.22p after payment of a 8.02p final. Earnings rose 10 per cent to 22.26p and the shares rose 1p to 540p. The group said a good start had been made to the current year.

Firth Rixson rises 66%

FIRTH RIXSON, the engineering group, said steady progress and growth is continuing, despite the effects of the strong pound and the economic crisis in Asia. The company, which has nearly half its business interests in the aerospace industry, reported a 60 per cent rise in half-year underlying pre-tax profits to £10.8 million from £6.5 million. Adjusted earnings rose to 5.1p a share from 3.4p. The interim dividend is lifted to 1p a share from 0.8p. The shares rose 13p to 180p.

Sterling slows Cropper

JAMES CROPPER, the paper and packaging group, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £5 million to £2.4 million for the year to March 28 on sales down from £59.3 million to £54.7 million. The company said that the strong pound had hit its export margins and had made the British market more attractive to imports from the Continent. Earnings fell from 36.2p to 18.1p out of which it is intended to pay a total dividend of 5p after a payment of a 3.6p final.

Anglian builds up

ANGLIAN, the building materials group, raised pre-tax profits from £20.2 million to £24 million in the year to March 28 on sales up from £226 million to £238 million. Earnings rose from 15.5p to 18.6p and the total dividend goes up from 9p to 10p after payment of a 6p final. Eddie Boss, the chief executive, said: "What we want to do is do a thorough search, look at all options over the next 12 months or so and hopefully find a good acquisition that is earnings enhancing."

Langston deal struck

MOLINS has reached a conditional agreement for the £30.5 million sale of Langston, its corrugated board machinery business, to Langston Acquisition Corp, a portfolio company of BancBoston Capital, the private equity division of BancBoston Corp. Molins shares remained unchanged at 250p. For the year ended December 31, 1997, Langston reported sales of £67.5 million and pre-tax profits of £700,000. Net assets were £22.6 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.83	2.85
Belgium Fr	21.48	19.80
Canada C	63.17	58.31
Denmark Kr	2.510	2.322
France F	0.089	0.087
Germany DM	11.87	10.78
Italy Lira	9.39	8.64
Japan Yen	10.22	9.44
Netherlands Gld	3.07	2.85
Portugal Esc	517	478
Spain Ptas	13.51	12.51
Sweden Kr	128	108
Switzerland Sfr	1.21	1.12
Taiwan NT\$	8.38	5.75
Thailand Baht	20.4	25.04
UK £	244.10	228.07
USA \$	0.672	0.614
Yen	3.482	3.19
Yen	3.38	3.14
Yen	12.85	11.91
Yen	910.40	288.37
Yen	6.13	5.17
Yen	259.43	238.04
Yen	13.65	12.55
Yen	2.57	2.35
Yen	42501	40623
Yen	1.743	1.600

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.



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News Intern

The real victims of Prescott's tax



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Could it be that the Government has belatedly realised just how much the British, and their cars? John Prescott's planned attack on motorists, camouflaged as the transport White Paper, will not appear until July. The indications are that what emerges then will have been softened from the Deputy Prime Minister's original vision, which would have condemned those without benefit of ministerial Jaguar to the vagaries of public transport or penalty.

Pugnacious Prescott has not entirely given up, however, and he seems intent on penalising those retailers who lure shoppers into cars by moving out of town. The stores have been lobbying hard against the prospect of a tax on parking spaces but this is what is planned. This week Prescott has admitted his determination to penalise out-of-town supermarkets for offering shoppers what they want but it would be invidious for such a tax, if it were to receive the backing of Parliament, not to be extended to all such out-of-town retailers.

The tax might fund a few park and ride schemes which no one wants to use but it will not persuade people to change their shopping habits. Retailers and shopping centres will either charge their customers for parking or, more likely in the case of the supermarkets, pass on the tax in the form of higher prices — in

which case the bill will fall as heavily on the pensioner who arrives by bus as on the executive whose company motor comes all expenses paid.

The property market appears entirely dismissive of Prescott's plans. Out of town stores, still disparagingly labelled as retail warehouses, are rapidly appreciating in value. Yesterday Great Portland Estates reported that the value of this element of its portfolio had risen by 18 per cent over the last year.

Enthusiasm for the warehouses is driven in part by scarcity value: town planners had taken exception to the move of commerce out of town long before John Prescott came to power. They have virtually ruled out any more major out-of-town shopping centres. In so doing working wonders for the asset values of companies such as Chelsfield and Capital Shopping Centres. Blue Water Park, currently taking shape in Kent, may be the last of the massive centres to be built in Britain: the prospect of a tax on the parking spaces which are essential to the project was not factored into the original costs but would not have deterred the developers.

The shopping centre operators

will resent another retrospective tax but, quietly, are sanguine about the implications. One operator has apparently declared that, if he had to pass on a parking charge to customers it could have a positive aspect, deterring those motorists who drive to the centre merely to browse and not to buy. Amazingly, this strange breed can account for almost a quarter of the vehicles competing for those sought after parking spaces.

MacKenzie can still Talk a good game

Mirror Group shares slipped back a mere halfpenny as the market digested the news that Kelvin MacKenzie is leaving. That is not surprising that chief executive David Montgomery should claim that the departure "will not affect the value of the group one

iota", but that does rather beg the question of why Mirror Group had deemed it worthwhile to install the colourful Mr MacKenzie as deputy chief executive.

In fact, having assumed his new role only in February, MacKenzie was already making a discernible impact on the business and, in particular, on its eponymous daily paper, where the downward trend in circulation has been reversed. Behind Montgomery's dismissive facade, the company is conceding that it may have to hunt for a replacement immediately, even though the shadow of Axel Springer and an impending bid hangs over it. MacKenzie, it should be remembered, quipped that a bid from Jerry Springer would be more likely but to imagine that he made the comment unaware of Springer's intentions would be another underestimation of the man.

The prospect of a bid was not what drove him out of Mirror, but the opportunity he spotted in Talk

Radio was. And he must have been pretty confident that his bid for Talk will be acceptable, for he is too canny to have walked out of Mirror without some degree of certainty that his new career was safe. Quite how the brains that dreamed up News Bunny and topless darts will translate to radio is an interesting subject for speculation. News International, owner of The Times, is so confident enough in his ability to come up with more bright ideas that it is backing him by taking a 20 per cent stake in the new company.

Apax, the venture capital house putting together the bid for Talk, is clearly not frightened at the prospect of MacKenzie as a businessman rather than just a creator of whacky ideas. It has already recognised the commercial talents of the red-haired, hell-raising Chris Evans and backed his move to control Virgin Radio. The firm realised that the wild image that went with the front of

house role as television presenter and disc jockey was carefully cultivated.

MacKenzie may not find the transition to running his own company an easy one but there will be plenty prepared to allow him the occasional step away from the conventional approach. Ideas are what carries the premium and he has them.

MPC members need to get out more

The Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates last week looks even more ludicrous after the latest batch of statistics. These confirm what was all too clear to those who wanted to see manufacturing in recession and consumer spending is slowing down. The only uncertainties which should have been troubling the Monetary Policy Committee as its learned economist members pondered whether to use their single sledge hammer power was just how badly the Far Eastern crisis might yet impact.

It is still too early for us to judge how deep the trouble in Japan will permeate but it certainly will take its toll both in the

United States and the UK. The sensible position for the MPC to adopt would have been to watch and wait rather than lay the ground for a soft landing to become unnecessarily bumpy.

It might be advisable for the economists to take a lesson from George Bain and the way he conducted his research before arriving at a suggested level for the minimum wage. He took his committee around the country and talked to real people. The result was to recommend a minimum wage at a realistic level. The members of the Monetary Policy Committee have plenty of time for expeditions. They debate for only two half days each month before deciding on the level of interest rates. If they ventured away from the South East, they might learn that the economy is cooling fast and, in some quarters, never progressed much beyond tepid.

Half-baked idea

THE people in the tower may have finally realised that Nasdaq has been running a successful advertising campaign in the UK but its belated response did nothing for the image of London's Stock Exchange. Buying shares is about long-term investment yet the new campaign implies a very different message with its play on the hackneyed phrase "selling like hot cakes". Watch out for burned fingers.

Express stabilises after publication of results

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Express Dairies, the milk company that was demerged from Northern Foods in March, stabilised yesterday on publication of the last set of annual results for the combined operation.

At the close, Express was trading at 181½p, 1½p firmer on the day. Since flotation, when the shares were listed at 142p, they have bounced up to 188p before sinking back to 150p in mid-April.

Combined Northern and Express pre-tax profits edged forward to £130 million in the 12 months to 31 March. However, one-off costs associated with the demerger depressed the figures. Ignoring

exceptional items, pre-tax profits were 19.3 per cent up at £151.6 million.

Most attention yesterday was directed at figures relating to Northern Foods, the Marks & Spencer foods supplier, and Express Dairies as separate entities.

Express achieved 40 per cent growth in operating profits to earn £62.5 million. However, the company said the rise was exaggerated by comparisons with a poor previous year, when a decline in the price of milk bought in bulk and the sharp rise in the value of the pound depressed profits.

The profit margin widened from 5.5 per cent to 8.3 per cent at Express. Paul Whitfield,

finance director, said the return on sales had returned to a more normal level and even admitted that the rate last year was slightly above what could be expected in future.

Operating profits for those businesses remaining under the Northern Foods umbrella rose 8 per cent to £104 million. It said the trading environment was difficult in the face of stiff price competition among retailers but it was confident of making further progress. Christopher Haskins, chairman, said the company would advance thanks to its commitment to efficiency-enhancing capital investment. Northern, which controls

the Eden Vale and Fox's biscuit brands, spent £100 million on new equipment last year, which was about twice its depreciation charge. It is on course to spend a similar amount this year.

Northern also expects to be helped by the integration of Cavaghan & Gray, a food processor based in Carlisle, acquired in March.

Shareholders in Express and Northern are to receive dividends equivalent to 10.4p per share pre-demerger, a 10.6 per cent improvement on the previous year. The final payment is 6.4p.

Shares in Northern slipped 5½p to close at 230½p.

Times, page 30

Yates Bros to create 1,000 jobs

YATES BROTHERS Wine Lodges is to treble its number of branches over the next five years to 200 in an expansion plan creating more than 1,000 full- and part-time jobs (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company, which was founded in Oldham in 1884, is rolling its Yates's Wine Lodge format into the South, Scotland and Wales from its northwest stronghold.

Pre-tax profit in the year to March 29 rose 30 per cent to £13.6 million on turnover that was up 29 per cent to £97.8 million. Earnings per share rose to 18.8p from 14.3p.

The company is paying a final dividend of 2.3p, up from 1.92p, on September 2, giving a total for the year of 3.45p, from 2.88p last time.

CSG bids \$250m for Corestaff

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

IN THE latest of a string of foreign purchases Corporate Services Group (CSG), the contract labour and training services supplier, has bid \$250 million (£154.3 million) for Corestaff, one of America's largest staffing organisations.

The group, which last year purchased Regie Inter Finance, a French temporary employment agency, is funding the acquisition from the proceeds of a £130.1 million share placing, an open offer at 227p a share and a £60 million issue of seven-year convertible notes.

The new bid comes as a surprise to many within the group who, after an announcement by executive chairman Jeffrey Fowler earlier this year, had regarded European expansion as a priority to capture business opportunities thrown up by the

single market.

A present CSG has 348 offices and currently operates in the UK, France and Spain. Corestaff, which has 105 branches and more than 60 on-site operations, serves the light industrial, technical, electronic and support services sectors.

In 1997 Corestaff, a subsidiary of Metamor Worldwide, made operating profits of more than \$28 million on revenues of \$478 million.

Mr Fowler said that the deal, which needs shareholder approval, would give CSG a commanding position in the international employment logistics market. CSG shares rose 23p to 261p.

"Following completion, we will have access to more than 75 per cent of this sector's world market," he said.

Microsoft in financial services plan

MICROSOFT aims to dominate the Internet marketplace for financial services in the UK with the launch of an initiative later this year (Patrick Collinson writes).

In a deal to be announced today, Microsoft is linking with The Exchange, a quotes and transactions system set up by the UK's large insurers, to launch a free financial Internet service modelled on the highly successful Microsoft Investor site in the US.

The Exchange already dominates information and quotes on financial products ranging from term insurance to pensions, but until now has been the preserve of the UK's 20,000 independent financial advisers.

Vardy launches £36m bid for Trust Motors

By MARTIN BARROW

REG VARDY has emerged as the bidder for Trust Motors Group, consolidating its position as one of Britain's biggest motor dealers.

Vardy, which under its chairman Peter Vardy has expanded its heartland in the North East into Scotland, the Midlands and the South East, yesterday launched a £36 million agreed bid for Trust.

The offer is worth 240p a share, a premium of 34.8 per cent over the closing price of 178p on May 13 when the bid approach was made public. In February the shares traded at 139½p ahead of a takeover approach by Trust's management, subsequently aborted in the face of a higher offer.

Trust shares rose 25p to 232p. Trust, formerly known as Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust, sold its coach holiday business last August for £41.8 million. Shareholders received 120p a share dividend from the proceeds of the sale. Trust operates three Vauxhall dealerships in Leeds, Garforth and Nottingham. It also operates the Strathclyde region in central Scotland for Ford, with dealerships in Motherwell, Hamilton, Coatbridge and Dumfries, and operates a main dealership in Glasgow. It has a Peugeot dealership in Huddersfield.

In 1997 Trust earned an operating profit of £2.6 million on continuing operation, with turnover of £184.6 million. Net assets were £33.7 million at the year-end.



Peter Vardy sold a record 100,000 vehicles last year

Reg Vardy reported a rise in pre-tax profits yesterday to £19.5 million from £17.09 million for the year to the end of April. Earnings rose to 24p a share from 21.7p. A final dividend of 5.45p a share lifts

the total to 8.25p a share from 7.5p. The company sold more than 100,000 vehicles in a year, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year. It plans to increase its dealerships to 60 from 51 this year.

Jarvis sets sights on European expansion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JARVIS HOTELS is eyeing a move into continental Europe and could spend up to £100 million cash on investments there and in the UK.

John Jarvis, chairman and chief executive, said: "We've always said that we're a UK hotel company. Now we're saying that we should explore the opportunities open to us in Europe. They would most likely be in management contracts or limited equity stakes rather than major acquisitions."

He said the company has access to £100 million cash and could also raise money from shareholders, although no such move is planned.

The rapid consolidation in the European hotel industry, with Thistle yesterday becoming the latest company to announce that it has received approaches, is opening up opportunities such as purchasing regional hotels, Mr Jarvis said. He added that companies buying into Britain, most of which are American, are likely to be interested in London rather than regional properties.

The company reported pre-tax profit of £30 million in the year to March 28, up from a pro-forma £24.1 million a year ago. Turnover was 15.6 per cent higher at £136.6 million. Earnings per share rose from a pro-forma 12.8p to 16.7p and the final dividend of 3p gives a full-year 4.5p. The shares rose 13½p to a record 191½p.

US buyers move in, page 31

How would you make money on your house without selling it?

- Open the gardens up to the public?
- Convert your garage into a theme park?
- Rent the box room to a South American fugitive?
- Re-mortgage with a Virgin One account?

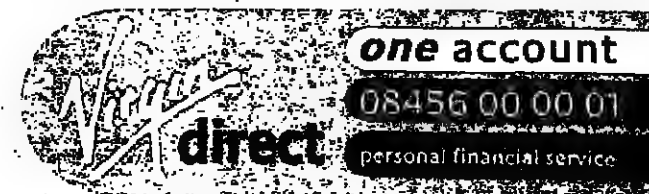
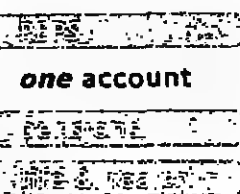
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News International joins Talk bid

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

KELVIN MACKENZIE, who resigned on Monday as deputy chief executive of the Mirror Group to try to buy Talk Radio, is being backed by News International (See Commentary, this page).

News International, owner of The Times, will be a 20 per cent shareholder in Mr MacKenzie's consortium — the maximum allowed under broadcasting legislation. The former editor of The Sun has also been in detailed talks with Media Ventures International, which owns 35

per cent of Talk Radio. MVI, which claims pre-emption rights if other shares in the broadcaster are sold, is expected to join the MacKenzie consortium.

Mr MacKenzie's consortium will face competition for the national commercial speech-based station.

The management team at Talk, led by Paul Robinson, the managing director, said yesterday it planned to mount a bid for the station and was close to completing financial support. The management, he said, had the support of radio industry players, a venture capital fund and debt finance was also in place.

Disney, Jacor, the US commercial radio group and Emap, the radio, magazine and exhibitions are among those who have shown interest.

CLT-Ufa, the Luxembourg-based media group controlled by Bertelsmann, has put its 62 per cent stake in Talk Radio on the market. Bids, likely to value the station at between £45 million and £50 million are due in next Monday.

Mr MacKenzie is being advised by the corporate finance arm of Apax Partners, the venture company which helped to put together the money that allowed Chris Evans to take over Virgin Radio.

Chancellor may yet spend and surprise



JANET BUSH

The definition of brilliant spin-doctoring must be the successful transmission of two distinct and contradictory messages from the same briefing. To the Treasury go the laurels.

The Treasury called in a number of economics journalists to explain a document, published on Monday, that analysed in depth the fiscal management mistakes that had wrecked the economy in the past and set out clear and comprehensive rules aimed at avoiding boom/bust calamities in future.

The headlines that resulted couldn't have been more different. "Chancellor to approve investment bonanza," said *The Guardian*. "Treasury turns fiscal screw," said our own business pages.

The public may be confused but this was a public relations triumph for a Treasury which is trying to please very different constituencies. *The Guardian*, whose readers tend to be Labour (old and new) and care passionately about the public services, for which dispropor-

tionately many work, provided reassurance that the Government will have money to spend on schools and hospitals. *The Times*, with a large City audience, provided heart-warming intelligence that the Treasury is not going to spend all of the budget surpluses for which it is now planning.

So everybody was left happy. But what does it all mean for levels of investment and spending? Does the Chancellor have a war chest or are the budget surpluses to come simply a temporary function of the cycle which will soon disappear when the economy turns down? If there is money available to be spent, will the Chancellor spend it or keep a substantial amount back for a rainy day?

There is little doubt that the Treasury is obsessed with not repeating the mistakes of the 1980s

when Nigel Lawson interpreted budget surpluses as the reward of a Conservative economic miracle rather than the result of an unsustainable economic boom. With an economic slowdown upon us, the Chancellor has every justification in building up a financial cushion. Nobody knows where the economy is compared with trend, how deep or shallow the trough might be and how long it will last. For a government whose every sinew is strained in the direction of winning another term in office, an "investment bonanza" seems too risky for now.

On the other hand, there really is no point in being a Labour government if it is not prepared to use quite a high proportion of available money to reverse Conservative neglect of public services. Having endured 18 years in oppo-

sition, its victory has to have a purpose beyond winning another term purely through the single-minded exercise of caution. The message of this week's Treasury paper on fiscal policy effectively inverts Saint Augustine's dictum: "Give me chastity and continence — but not yet." Labour is saying: "We will spend, but not yet." Mr Brown had

already announced that Labour will run surpluses for the rest of this Parliament and stick to the Golden Rule that prohibits borrowing unless it finances investment.

This week, the Treasury signalled that it was unlikely to use those surpluses in their entirety to finance capital spending by announcing that it would "bear down" on the ratio of public debt to GDP. The Chancellor has promised to give us a figure on this, probably a ceiling, for the rest of this Parliament when the Comprehensive Spending Review is published early in July.

At the same time, it announced a change to the public spending architecture that it hopes will bias departmental spending towards investment rather than their running costs. Part of the spending

review is a new system which requires departments to run separate current and capital budgets, and not be allowed to shift resources between them. If current spending overruns, capital budgets will be protected.

This is a long-term framework and very sensible it seems. But what of the next few years, the rest of this term? The happy truth, unless the economy falls off a cliff, is that, courtesy of Kenneth Clarke's economic boom and Gordon Brown's austerity, the Treasury is probably in a position to be both prudent and spend public money with relative generosity. David Walton of Goldman Sachs calculates that Mr Brown could raise spending by a real 2.75 per cent a year for the next three years and, within that total, increase capital spending by 25 per cent a

year, and still meet his fiscal rules. This, Mr Walton notes, would make a significant inroad into the undoubted backlog of public investment projects, but it is arguable whether even this would be enough for the public to notice the difference. On these figures, the average annual real growth in the public spending would still only be 1.75 per cent, only slightly more than that achieved by the Tories.

Mr Brown may want to do better than this. He may not dare. We still don't know which of his instincts will come to dominate — the iron Chancellor or the lifelong Labour man.

My reading of the Chancellor and his officials is that there will be more spending but it will not be large enough to come anywhere near the hopes implied by the words "war chest". Bonanza and Brown are not words that sit easily together but let us see the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Chancellor may surprise us.

American invaders here to stay after seeing room for expansion

Dominic Walsh on the bid frenzy in the UK hotel industry

With interest rates on the up and the economy slowing down after six years of growth, the case for investing in the UK hotel industry looks pretty thin. Yet in the past few weeks, the Savoy Group has been sold for an astonishing £520 million, while Cliveden, Vaux and now Thistle have all issued statements that they are in talks with potential buyers.

The biggest single factor driving the sudden surge in would-be hotel buyers is interest from America, where a new breed of apparently insatiable hotel acquirers has come to the fore in the past couple of years. Blazing the trail have been the real estate investment trusts (REITs), led by Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Patriot American Hospitality.

They have shaken up the US hotel industry, ruffling numerous feathers along the way. This culminated last year in Starwood's defeat of the powerful Hilton Hotels Corporation in the battle for ITT, owner of the Sheraton Hotels chain, with a knockout \$14.6 billion bid (£8.9 billion).

Most commentators believe the pace of change in the US means that further opportunities there have become few and far between, driving buyers to look further afield and putting Europe firmly in their sights. Take the Savoy Group, for example. While the eventual winner was a joint venture between two US investment firms, Blackstone Group and Colony Capital, the other main contenders included Starwood and Meditrust, another REIT.

Starwood, which last year snapped up the famous Turnberry Hotel and golf courses on Scotland's west coast for more than \$50 million, is considered a front-runner for Thistle, the price of which could top £2 billion if a competitive bidding situation develops. On a recent visit to London, Robert Conner, Starwood's president and chief operating officer for Europe, expressed confidence in the



Robert Peel, the former Thistle chief, and Ramon Pajares, managing director of the Savoy, flanked by Blackstone's Stephen Schwarzman and John Kukulal

European hotel market over the next four to five years.

Part of his confidence is based on the theory that the UK market is two years behind the US economic cycle, making continued moderate growth sustainable. Mr Conner, in London to promote the benefits of the integration of the group's Sheraton and Westin brands, said the industry here would also benefit from European monetary union and the Millennium celebrations.

John Jarvis, chairman and chief executive of Jarvis Hotels and a former head of Hilton International, also believes the UK hotel market has further to go and believes many hotel stocks are still undervalued.

Mr Jarvis said: "What has

happened in the US is that there has been major structural change and major consolidation. Now that value has largely been eroded in the US, the 'new-age' investors are clearly turning their eyes to Europe because they see value there. They see value in the quality of the properties, in the quality of the management and in the great divergence in p/e ratios in the sector."

Leading hotel property agents, though sceptical of some of the prices being paid, also believe the top of the market has yet to be reached. Derek Gammage, head of hotels at Knight Frank, said: "Although occupancy has levelled off, room rates are still growing at inflation-plus, and because fixed costs have been

kept firmly under control any growth is going straight to the bottom line. We're currently seeing returns on income out in the regions of between 27 and 28 per cent, compared with between 22 and 24 per cent in the recent past. In London, the returns can be as high as 45 per cent on bed-only operations."

The quality of such assets as Cliveden and Cleveleys, both of which may end up in US hands for premium prices, is in no doubt, although in the case of Thistle the picture is less clear-cut. One of the factors that led to the recent departure of Robert Peel after 20 years as chief executive was his slowness in

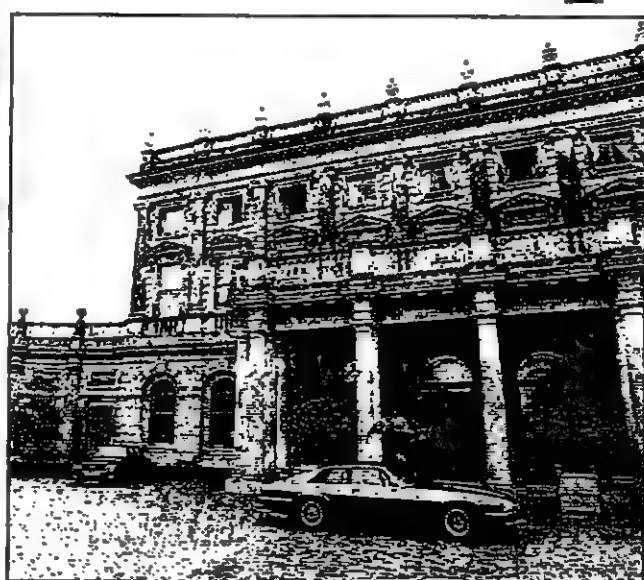
shedding poorer assets to focus on the four-star Thistle brand. The interest to buyers lies in its London presence, where it has 24 hotels with just under 6,500 rooms.

Despite the US invasion, some of the UK's more ambitious companies are also on the prowl. In the wake of the recent £1.7 billion acquisition of Inter-Continental Hotels by Bass, whose stable already included Holiday Inn, there is talk that Ladbrokes is in negotiations with Hilton Hotels Corporation with a view to buying its US hotels for about \$8 billion.

Another domestic predator is Stakis, the Glasgow group brought back from the brink of death in the last recession by David Michels. Mr Mi-

chels, who paid £327 million for Metropole Hotels in October 1996, is understood to be in takeover talks with Vaux, the Sunderland brewer whose Swallow Hotels chain is its biggest division. Mr Michels is expected to keep Swallow while offloading its pubs and brewing operations.

If successful, Mr Michels would clearly look to cut costs at Swallow by closing the head office while taking advantage of economies of scale in areas such as purchasing and sales and marketing. The rationale for the deal, albeit on a smaller scale, is thus similar to the policies adopted by some of the American invaders, where "big is beautiful" is the guiding principle in an increasingly global marketplace.



Prestige operations such as Cliveden are not the only stock to offer value, according to John Jarvis



BUSINESS LETTERS

Deal over Channel Tunnel rail link achieved by creative accounting

From Mr Paul K. Gorfond
Sir, The City Editor described John Prescott's new CTRL deal as achieved "as if by magic" (Commentary, June 4). It is not magic but old-fashioned creative accounting of the "off-balance sheet" kind. The Accounting Standards Board in Financial Reporting Standard 5 (FRS5) states ownership of an asset is associated with exposure to the "risks inherent in the benefits, taking into account the likelihood of those risks having a commercial effect in practice".

It appears from what the Deputy PM and Railtrack have announced so far that the pre-arranged order of risks lie with the taxpayer. We are told the Government guarantees the whole underlying debt — no surprise the City will lend the money. The Government also is to underwrite the necessary income flow to the operator to service this debt and presumably reward their shareholders.

Operating, performance and demand risks are not with the private partners in this deal; rather that if anything goes wrong taxpayers via the Treasury will be left with the penalty. In commercial accounting terms the financing of this deal would be a liability on the balance sheet of the party making the guarantees. If the Treasury's financial reporting is to be "true and fair" £3.8 billion should therefore be included in the public sector borrowing requirement.

The other implication of this deal is that the Government's creative accounting has resulted in a parliamentary order of £3.8 billion of liability. Surely the Commons Treasury or Public Accounts Committees are not going to accept this without a fight? Yours faithfully, PAUL K. GORFOND, 19 Farringdon Road, Wanchfield, Swindon SN6 8SS.

Unfairness is inherent in capital gains taxation

From Mr Hugh Long
Sir, You reported that small business retirement relief, capital gains tax, is being removed by the Government in legislation guided by Geoffrey Robinson (Week-end Money, June 6). You reported Mr Robinson as saying, in the House: "We do not think it is right that people with substantial gains should pay no tax at all. I say that quite frankly. We do not see the logic or correctness of that arrangement. It is simply not fair to the vast majority of taxpayers who do not have capital gains." Mr Robinson, I understand, is one of those who "do not have capital gains" in his offshore trust.

Others who "do not have" capital gains exposure, until the point at which the capital is consumed as income, are those with revenue-approved pension schemes; from the captains of industry down, many enjoy this privilege. Why should those individuals selling their whole business assets and whose circumstances precluded joining these privileged saving schemes be taxed as on changes to investments, as though the capital realised is all to be consumed as income in the year of sale and reinvestment? To do so, seems manifestly unfair. Yours faithfully, HUGH LONG, 67 Dartmouth Park Road, London, NW5 1SL.

Regulation that gives us all a steak in society

From Mr Mark Hayes-Newton
Sir, I am confident that I have now identified one of the most creative political manoeuvres this century. It has troubled me for some time that the current Government's obsession with shaking up the financial services industry must have a more significant purpose than increased protection for the consumer.

First we saw the creation of the single financial services regulatory organisation, the FSA. In itself this was not a great surprise.

However, the follow-up move of giving this same body responsibility for protecting the public's interests in food as well as financial services seemed extraordinarily imaginative. I assumed that such a single agency would be more cost effective and was probably necessary as supermarkets would need to be regulated as

they now sell financial products.

However, I have recently seen the logical conclusion to this policy. In future we are all to have steak (sic) holder pensions. Presumably these products will be offered by supermarkets, and to enjoy any tax benefit investors will be required to buy steak at the same time as submitting their pension contributions.

As a result, in one masterful stroke, the Government seems to have created the opportunity for cost savings in regulation, saved the state the burden of future pension provision and rescued the embattled British beef industry. Yours faithfully, MARK HAYES-NEWINGTON, Marketing Director, The Research Department, Dovetail House, Weycombe Road, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3RQ.

Drug overdose

THE departure of Glen Travers, chairman of underperforming drug development company Corcoran, looks like only the start. Institutional shareholders have lost patience, and my man with the poisoned hypodermic says the next out could be Leon Ivory, a fellow Australian. Ivory has been Travers's right-hand man for years and chairs the remuneration committee that has awarded him a ludicrous number of share options in the past. Investors are irritated over this and various other "lifestyle

issues" — the chauffeured Bentley (Travers's own, let us be fair) or the company helicopter that picked him up from his back garden.

Michael Flynn, chief scientific officer, says loyally that the helicopter was a cost-effective way to ferry people up to the Deeside R&D centre. But even he admits that this created a bad impression. The other directors on the remuneration committee, who may have a few tricky questions to answer, include Nelson Broms, a 78-year-old American, and Lord Colwyn, a dentist who took his seat in the House of Lords in 1967.

WHEN David Simons, the Somerfield chief executive and a man whose effortless charm led one analyst to dub him "the David Mellor of retailing", announced the merger with Kwik Save a few months back, there was much talk about a meeting of equals. Simons promised a new name to symbolise this and initiated a company-wide competition to find one, offering a crate of own-label champagne as the prize.

Now they have decided, logically enough, to take one word from each of the two companies' names. So Somerfield has contributed, well, Somerfield and Kwik Save the plc

bit. Somerfield plc it is, then, and Kwik Save goes to that strange underworld that is the final resting place of old brand names. Still, I am told someone won the champagne.

Depth plumbed

AS ONE of the advisers to the flotation of Thomson Travel, SBC Warburg Dillon Read is not yet allowed to publish research. This has not dissuaded Julian Easthope from a detailed analysis from the float. The Jacuzzi: some useful tips to analysts on US hotels. There follows his nightmare experience with American plumbing. He jumps out of the



Jacuzzi to reach the switch on the wall, "about a stretch limo away". The level of the water falls below that of the jets, which empty out into the bathroom. The only solution is to jump back in to raise the water level, while turning the taps back on again. "Sadly you are fighting a losing battle: the taps are filling up the bath slower than the jets are emptying it." Easthope is by now stretched out blocking four of the Jacuzzi jets with his hands and feet. He tries a mad dash back to the switch to turn the thing off. "Why were bathrooms made from marble? Nothing when wet is more slippery..."

ATTEMPTS by the stuffy old Athenaeum Hotel to cash in on World Cup fever have gone wrong. The hotel conducted a survey of City traders. Favourite to win, no surprise, Brazil. But in the list of top scorers a new name appears in third place — Berkoff. The only Berkoff anyone has heard of is a balding East End playwright. Is he playing, then? "Er... it isn't Berkoff, is it?" a spokesman witters. "What is it? Ah, Bierhoff, the German chappie. They've obviously got it wrong."

Written out

THE Prudential has produced a glossy brochure to celebrate its 150th anniversary. But nothing in Pruden-

tial in Pictures of the image that defines the company for many, those adverts with Sir Peter Davis, the chairman, as the living embodiment of the Pru and all it stands for. These were screened before the Pru was named and shamed for its part in the pensions mis-selling scandal, and withdrawn thereafter. And banished from the history books?

"We're looking at this book as a celebration of our history," a spokeswoman tells me. "I don't think any more should be read into it than that." Perhaps some things are more worth celebrating than others.

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Peter Davis: strangely absent from history book



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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998 Low Company				Price				1998 Low Company				Price				1998 Low Company				Price					
Low	Company	Price	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%	Low	%	%
424	10	586	8	27	18.3			1109	814	Onco	327	19	58	54.1			1515	77	66	252	32	22	145	22	145
425	10	587	8	27	18.3			1110	815	Franklin Trust	328	19	58	54.1			1516	77	66	253	32	22	146	22	146
426	10	588	8	27	18.3			1111	816	786	329	19	58	54.1			1517	77	66	254	32	22	147	22	147
427	10	589	8	27	18.3			1112	817	787	330	19	58	54.1			1518	77	66	255	32	22	148	22	148
428	10	590	8	27	18.3			1113	818	788	331	19	58	54.1			1519	77	66	256	32	22	149	22	149
429	10	591	8	27	18.3			1114	819	789	332	19	58	54.1			1520	77	66	257	32	22	150	22	150
430	10	592	8	27	18.3			1115	820	790	333	19	58	54.1			1521	77	66	258	32	22	151	22	151
431	10	593	8	27	18.3			1116	821	791	334	19	58	54.1			1522	77	66	259	32	22	152	22	152
432	10	594	8	27	18.3			1117	822	792	335	19	58	54.1			1523	77	66	260	32	22	153	22	153
433	10	595	8	27	18.3			1118	823	793	336	19	58	54.1			1524	77	66	261	32	22	154	22	154
434	10	596	8	27	18.3			1119	824	794	337	19	58	54.1			1525	77	66	262	32	22	155	22	155
435	10	597	8	27	18.3			1120	825	795	338	19	58	54.1			1526	77	66	263	32	22	156	22	156
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452	10	614	8	27	18.3			1137	842	812	355	19	58	54.1			1543	77	66	280	32	22	173	22	173
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488	10	650	8	27	18.3																				

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Year	Value
1970	2.10
1971	1.00
1972	0.80
1973	3.32
1974	2.27
1975	6.38
1976	
1977	
1978	5.79
1979	0
1980	2.76
1981	2.00
1982	1.79
1983	
1984	4.02
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1986	0.75
1987	4.02
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1989	0.05
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Exl



Ecology in isolation: Lieutenant-Commander Tigwell, his wife Heather and their children Kit, 4, and Pippa, 3, at their wind-powered cottage

Big bills have gone with the wind power

Nigel and Heather Tigwell knew exactly what they were looking for during their 18-month search for a home on Dartmoor: a detached, family-size cottage in a rural setting with great views.

What they never expected to settle on was a propeller-powered home. Wheel Lucky, a large Edwardian house built by quarrymen working at nearby Foggin Tor, stands on high moorland, where the wind can howl like a mad monarch.

With no mains services of its own, it relies on a private water supply (from a borehole), a septic tank and, for its domestic electricity, a galvanised steel mast topped by a three-blade turbine.

Many potential buyers might have been put off, but Lieutenant-Commander Tigwell, a Royal Navy submarine engineer, felt up to the challenge. He and his wife were the first to view and bought immediately. He says: "It helps that I'm an engineer because I understand how wind turbines work."

When it comes to fuel bills, their purchase will prove to be a savvy one. For a start, the system had already been installed, saving the Tigwells up to £15,000. As for the bills, it is reckoned that a three-blade turbine such as theirs could provide 24-hour lighting and power for a washing-machine, dishwasher, tumble-dryer and other domestic appliances for

The Tigwells fell in love with their Dartmoor cottage for its unusual generator, they tell Sue Herdman

two months. Generator back-up should cost about £6. The cost is slightly more if the house is sited in a less windy spot, but a great deal less than having a mains system run to the house by a local utility company. In remote areas of Scotland, up to £39,000 has been quoted for such a service.

Advice for wind-turbine novices comes from Paul Allen, a consultant at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Machynlleth, Powys. He says: "It is important to get the right-size turbine system for your house: too big and you'll be dumping power. And think about the noise. The latest systems are a lot quieter than those of five years ago and come without gearboxes, which used to make a continuous drone."

A typical power system will have the wind turbine providing a steady trickle charge to batteries kept in a battery store. They store enough charge to support daily use of essential appliances and lighting for two or three days.

As a back-up, there will be a diesel generator to provide power when the batteries are low. At the heart of the process will be an inverter power-management system to monitor battery condition, power usage, charge rates and stop

or start the generator as necessary. If demand exceeds a certain limit, the inverter becomes a charger, taking power from the generator at a predetermined rate to top up the batteries.

What, then, of the actual turbine (never call them windmills — turbine aficionados simply won't have it)? At Wheel Lucky, the turbine stands alongside the house on a raised spot. Its rotors will be capable of withstanding winds

burning Rayburn instead."

Wind-turbine systems are, essentially, just a little younger than the Tigwells' new home. Mr Allen says: "They date to the 1930s. But, with the advent of the national grid, electricity was cheap and connection easy, so these systems remained largely undeveloped until the 1970s, when self-sufficiency became popular."

Today it is possible to be on the grid and use wind power at the same time. If becalmed, you can buy electricity from the grid and it is also technically possible to sell power to the grid.

CAT statistics show that there has been an increase in the use of wind turbines in the past decade, although they are still rare. But the latest designs are reliable and quiet.

In operation, the turbine could be described as an intermittent whisper, inaudible from inside the house. The generator is noisier but unobtrusive if, as in the Tigwells' case, it is housed slightly away from the house in a garage or workshop.

But if you are thinking of installing one, remember the one vital factor — geography. These systems work best in windy, rural and often isolated areas such as the Tigwells' house. Wheel Lucky's out-

To enthusiasts, the turbines are beautiful — and healthy

worthy of a West Country Hardy novel — up to 150mph. The blades are designed to furl, or fold, to avoid damage in extreme weather conditions. The turbine develops 2.6kW of power, which is transmitted by a 50mm cable.

"That 2.6kW really is the maximum load," Lt-Cdr Tigwell says. "The disadvantage is that we had to be careful when choosing a washing machine and dishwasher because both must have an economy button, and we cannot run an electric cooker — we have an oil-

standing scenic views come unhindered by neighbours, across moorland and allow the wind a clear sweep towards the smoothly swinging turbine. (If you are connected to the national grid, it probably is not worth providing your own wind power.)

To wind-turbine enthusiasts such as Mr Allen, the turbines are beautiful — and healthy. "Just think of the price to pay in health terms for nuclear power," he says.

The Tigwells are certainly won over. Lt-Cdr Tigwell says: "With our septic tank, own water supply and the turbine, the only regular cost we have on the house is council tax."

Elegance on parade in English Versailles

IT IS hard to imagine the formal elegance of the 17th-century French court transposed to modern Hampshire, but Charles II wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Bess Twiston Davies writes.

He was so determined to have a copy of Louis XIV's palace, that he commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to re-create Versailles in Winchester on the site now known as the Peninsula Barracks.

Wren made an exact blueprint of the large hunting lodge at Versailles that formed the basis for the gargantuan palace we know today. The palace was designed on a grand scale: the steps alone swept down from the barracks to Winchester Cathedral and, in keeping with the Neo-Classical concepts of his day, Wren planned to frame his palace within a formal garden. But the King died before the gardens could make it off the drawing board.

This March, some 300 years from their inception, the formal 17th-century gardens Wren envisaged for his palace will finally be completed.

"These gardens are an abstraction of Wren's ideas," explains Huw Thomas, RIBA, who de-

signed the gardens. Thomas's gardens differ in one essential to Wren's: they are a fraction of the size Wren intended. "All the buildings between the barracks and Winchester Cathedral would have had to be knocked down to fit in the gardens," he says.

At the centre of the garden is a large basin, a 10ft by 14ft "mirror pond". Wren copied this from Versailles and introduced it into the gardens he designed at Hampton Court.

Wren's garden forms the centrepiece of a sympathetic conversion

The gardens mark the final stage of the barracks conversion into housing. Wren's palace was turned into barracks during the Peninsula War of 1808-14, and remained under military control until 1986. The development by Try Homes and the Gerry Gilchrist Park Partnership has enhanced the distinctive 17th-century atmosphere of the barracks.

Last November Try Homes won the best house category in the What House competition (sponsored by The Sunday Times) for

building a copy of Wren's original building, which had been knocked down in the 1960s, at the centre of the site. Most of Wren's original buildings were rebuilt by the Edwardian architect Ingress Bell after they were damaged by fire at the turn of the century.

"Ingress Bell took apart the remains of Wren's palace and rebuilt it like a huge Lego set, using all the original materials," says Mr Thomas.

The gardens may have been constructed last, but Mr Thomas (who is responsible for the barracks conversion) designed them first, long before there seemed any chance of saving the barracks from plans to build a four-storey car park on the parade ground, where the gardens are built.

Now he has the satisfaction of seeing his elegant watercolour sketches of the gardens come to life. "I can't believe I have managed to get away with this. I keep pinching myself. Developers often curtail the cost, but this is exactly how I designed the gardens."

His designs retain echoes of the parade ground, incorporating rows of yew trees, of which he says: "In the half light, they will look like soldiers in formation."



Artist's impression of Peninsula Barracks with gardens designed by Wren

Preaching to the converters

Andy Scott, a member of Sweet, the Seventies pop group, has just paid £120,000 for a derelict 18th-century timber-framed barn above the village of All Cannings, in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire. Mr Scott, 48, expects to spend another £100,000 converting his barn into a four-bedroom single-storey house, if local authority planners raise no further objections.

His barn is one of a group of cottages and redundant farm buildings set in the ramparts of Tan Hill, which at 962 ft is Wiltshire's highest point. The barns are close to an Iron Age settlement, and the surrounding landscape is of great archaeological value as well as being part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Permission to convert the barns was given only at the fourth attempt.

In cases such as All Cannings, where there is no money or motive to restore buildings for agricultural purposes, the National Farmers' Union supports other uses. The Government's policy and planning guidance document, *The Countryside, Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development* (PPG7), which all local authorities have, stipulates: "Residential conversions are often detrimental to the character of historic farm buildings." This view is shared by the Royal Town Planning Institute, which says that farm



Folly House is an example of an attractive conversion

buildings in village streets might work as houses, but generally not those in rural locations.

"Barns are often isolated," says Mike Haslam, the institute's spokesman on development control. "When converted into a house, it introduces all the paraphernalia of domestic life into the open landscape, and this is intrusive."

English Heritage is reviewing its advice on barn conversions and expects to publish *A Future for Historic Farm Buildings* this month. The present statement says that residential conversion destroys many essential features of farm buildings. Where the unwanted barns have no architectural merit, the option favoured by the Council for the Protection of Rural England is demolition. With historic

buildings, the problem, says CPRE's Gregor Hutcheon, is that "the restrictions placed on the original conversion are subject to incremental change" as the owners experience life in a converted barn.

This has already begun to happen at Cannings Cross, where there are applications for new windows and a double garage. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings says even the best-intentioned people discover barn living too uncomfortable.

The agents SPD Savills says that it was poor conversions that contributed to the slump in the barn trade during the late 1980s and early 1990s when the cost of buying and renovating was often greater than the value of the result.

"People tried to make them into Barrat homes," says

James Borradaile, of Savills' Banbury office. "But conversions are much more interesting now that local authorities are more flexible."

Mr Borradaile has little sympathy with official attempts to impose character details on farm buildings. Stove-pipe chimneys (a familiar condition of planning permission) stand out more than proper chimneys. He says: "It is better to carry out a thorough conversion."

Folly House, from Savills, is a good example of an attractive barn conversion at Sibford Ferris, Oxfordshire.

At Cannings Cross, local planners agreed on an application to turn the barns into three houses only after protracted negotiations.

Mr Scott suspects recent informal remarks may reveal the town hall's true philosophy: "This planner stood on the hill above my barn and said it would be preferable for the barns to have fallen down and gone back to downland. But I see nothing wrong in taking something derelict and making it beautiful."

DAVID LOVIBOND

Two of the Cannings Cross barns have now been sold. The third, a mid-Victorian building, is available at a guide price of £110,000 to £115,000. Details from Andrew Fleming Associates, 01380 360960. Savills Banbury has two converted barns set among hills west of the town. Both properties are offered at £485,000 and £325,000 respectively. Contact James Borradaile, 01295 263535.

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'Paid' means actually not lawfully paid

Secretary of State for Social Security v Harman
Same v Carter
Same v Cocks

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment May 5]

On a true construction of section 6(1) of the Child Support Act 1991 the word "paid" meant "actually paid", not "lawfully paid". It followed that when an absent parent claimed that a person was not entitled to receive an income support benefit, the child support authorities had no power to delay or adjourn their decisions in order to see whether the receipt by the person with care of a specified benefit would be terminated by a social security adjudication officer.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing appeals by the Secretary of State for Social Security from three decisions of child support commissioners. Mr Commissioner Rice in the cases of Mr Peter Cox and Mr David Carter, and Mr Commissioner Angus in the case of Mr Michael Harman, in favour of the absent parents.

Section 6 of the 1991 Act provides:

"(1) Where income support, family credit or any other benefit of a prescribed kind is claimed by or in respect of a person (the claimant), the parent of a qualifying child shall, if — (a) she is a person with care of the child; and (b) she is required to do so by the secretary of state, take action under the Act to recover child support maintenance from the absent parent."

Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state, Mr Nicholas Mostyn, QC, for Mr Harman.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that Mr Commissioner Rice had followed an earlier decision of his own in *Boverbrook* (CS 7062/1995) on January 8, 1996. Mr Commissioner Angus had followed Mr Commissioner Rice.

The absent parents were un-

represented below. In order to ensure that the appeals were fully argued, the secretary of state had agreed to pay the costs of the absent parents on an indemnity basis in any event.

Only Mr Harman had taken advantage of that offer. Technically, Mr Mostyn represented only Mr Harman but in reality he represented all three absent parents.

All three appeals all raised the same short but important question, which was concerned with the relationship between the child support system and the social security benefit system.

Two conditions had to be satisfied before the secretary of state was authorised to take action to recover child maintenance support from an absent parent: (i) the person giving the requisite authority must be a person with care of a qualifying child; (ii) income support or other benefit of a prescribed kind must be being claimed or paid to or in respect of her.

The principal question in the appeals was whether there was a further implicit condition, that the benefit in question was benefit to which the person with care was entitled.

For the purpose of making an assessment it was necessary for the child support officer to determine the assessable income of both parents. Where, however, either parent was in receipt of benefit, he or she was taken to have no assessable income, under paragraph 5(4) of the First Schedule to the 1991 Act.

Again a principal question in the appeals was whether it was an implicit condition of paragraph 5(4) that the benefit in question was benefit to which the person with care was entitled.

In each of the cases with which the appeals were concerned the parent with care was the mother and the father was the absent parent.

The mother was in receipt of income support and was required by the secretary of state under

section 6(1) to authorise him to take action to recover child maintenance from the respondent father and did so.

Each of the fathers contended that the mother was not entitled to income support and challenged the section 6 procedure. Following unsuccessful appeals to the Child Support Appeal Tribunal, each of the fathers appealed to the child support commissioner.

The respective commissioners had considered:

- 1 The authority of the secretary of state in taking action under section 6(1) to recover child maintenance support from the absent parent depended on whether the parent with care was claiming or being paid income support or other benefit to which he or she was lawfully entitled.

- 2 The social security adjudication officer had exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether income support or other benefit was properly payable and the child support authorities were bound by his decision.

- 3 Where the absent parent had substantial grounds for contending that income support or other benefit should not have been paid to the parent with care, the child support authorities had a discretion to defer or adjourn consideration of the assessment until the issue was resolved.

- 4 The failure by the tribunal to consider whether to allow application to be made to the social security authorities to review the award of income support to the parent with care was a breach of natural justice and an error of law.

- 5 The case should be remitted to the tribunal to consider whether to grant an adjournment and if the social security officer found that income support was not properly payable, the child support tribunal could, on a resumed hearing, remit the case to the child support officer with a direction to amend the assessment.

His Lordship said that in the end the question was one of jurisdiction: the child support officer had power to defer making the assess-

ment, and the tribunal power to adjourn consideration of an assessment already made, in order to allow the social security authorities to review the decision to pay income support, if but only if the entitlement pay income support was a matter which was relevant to the discharge of their functions.

That was so, if but only if, as the commissioners held, "paid" meant lawfully or properly paid. Otherwise the question whether the benefit was benefit to which the parent with care was entitled was not relevant.

The commissioners considered (i) that the primary meaning of "paid" was lawfully paid; and (ii) that the context of the 1991 Act could have no other meaning.

His Lordship respectfully disagreed. In his judgment the primary meaning of the word "paid" was "actually paid". But the primary meaning would readily yield to a context to the contrary.

In his view, however, the statutory context demonstrated that what was in section 6(1) and paragraph 5(4) of the First Schedule meant "actually paid". His reasons were:

- 1 The same test was adopted in sections 6(1) and 4(1)(b) of the 1991 Act, as inserted by section 18(1) of the Child Support Act 1995. Where benefit was claimed, or paid, whatever that might mean, then (i) the parent with care could not make his own application to the absent parent; but (ii) the secretary of state could require her to authorise him to do so.

- 2 The two sections were obviously mutually exclusive, and exhaustive. Every case must fall into one or the other. Either benefit was paid or claimed or it was not.

- 3 Accordingly if "paid" meant "lawfully paid" (i) it must do so in section 4(1)(b). But that produced a nonsensical result. The parent with care could not claim to be paid income support on the basis that she was entitled to it and at the same time authorise the secretary of state to recover child maintenance support under section 6 on the basis that she was not.

- 4 By making a claim to benefit,

and a fortiori by receiving it, she automatically took herself out of section 4 and into section 6.

- 2 The fact that Parliament intended the section 6 procedure to be set in motion before a claimant's entitlement to benefit had been determined demonstrated that the invocation of the section 6 procedure did not depend on the validity of the claim.

- 3 If the respondent's argument was correct, then every step taken under section 6(1) fell if the parent with care was not entitled to the benefit she was receiving. It was not merely a case of an incorrect assessment under paragraph 5(4) of the First Schedule.

- 4 The secretary of state's authority to take action to recover child support maintenance, together with the service of the maintenance inquiry form, and his reference to the child support officer, must all be set aside.

- 5 The result would be that there would be no effective date, and no liability on the part of the absent father to pay child support maintenance until a new effective date was obtained.

- 6 The consequence of holding the section 6 procedure invalid was to deprive qualifying children of maintenance and to confer unjustified relief from all liability on an underserving absent parent.

- 4 The cost to public funds, and correspondingly the need for repayment, was the same whether the parent with care was entitled to the income support paid or not.

- 5 Thus the statutory purpose behind section 6(1), far from requiring the word "paid" to be construed as meaning "lawfully" or "properly paid", required it to be construed as meaning "actually paid".

For these reasons his Lordship was satisfied that sections 4(1)(b) and 6(1) must be read in their primary significance.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Court should not overturn medical agency decision

Regina v Medicines Control Agency, Ex parte Pharma Nord Ltd

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment May 22]

Where the Medicines Control Agency reasonably decided that a product was medicinal the court should not readily exercise its discretionary jurisdiction to grant a declaration to the contrary in a private law action.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the applicants, Pharma Nord Ltd, against the decision of Mr Justice Collins in the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* July 29, 1997) that their application for judicial review of a decision of the Medicines Control Agency, notified to them on June 14, 1996, that metanolin, a product marketed by the applicants, was a medicinal product within the meaning of article 1.2 of Council Directive 65/65/EEC on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products (SI 1984 No 3141, Edition 1965-p20), should continue to trial in the Crown Office List rather than as if it had been begun by writ.

The agency had deferred instituting criminal proceedings against the applicants when the application for judicial review was launched.

Mr Alastair Wilson, QC and Miss Tamsin Holman for the applicants; Mr Richard Pender, QC, for the agency.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the agency had informed the applicants that it had determined that metanolin was a licensable medicinal product under the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations) Regulations (SI 1994 No 3141).

The applicants had sought an order of certiorari to quash that decision and a declaration that their tablets containing metanolin were not medicinal products within the meaning of article 1.2 of Directive 65/65.

The applicants had recognised that there was little prospect of succeeding on their application if it was to be determined in accordance with the principles usually applied in judicial review. They had therefore applied to have the proceedings transferred (from the Crown Office List) with the object of experts on both sides being called to give oral evidence and the court determining whether metanolin was a medicinal product.

It was clear from Case 227/82 *Van Bensen* (1983) ECR 3883, Case C-112/89 *Upjohn Co v Farcoo Inc* (1991) ECR I-1703 and Case C-260/90 *Commission of the European Communities v Germany* (1992) ECR I-3377 that the application for a declaration of a medicinal product in article 1.2 of the Directive was far from straightforward.

Where it was the functional qualities of the product which were in issue there would be room for more than one opinion and it had to be very much a question of judgment in those cases where the answer was not obvious whether a

product was medicinal or not. Each member state's relevant authorities had to be allowed a margin of appreciation in reaching a conclusion.

In dismissing the application to transfer, Mr Justice Collins had held that that factual issue "should be left to be decided in the forum contemplated by the Directive and provided for by domestic law, namely the criminal court."

His Lordship did not accept that the Directive, the decisions of the European Court or domestic law required only the criminal courts to decide what was or was not a medicinal product. The approach of the European Court was equally consistent with the initial decision being made by the licensing authority and that decision being reviewed by whatever were the appropriate national courts.

Clearly, the criminal courts would have jurisdiction to decide the issue in the course of criminal proceedings but the issue could also be determined in the course of civil proceedings. While questions of fact could be resolved by judicial review proceedings after cross-examination, ordinary private law proceedings were more appropriate for determining issues of the present nature.

However, it would not be appropriate for a civil court, as a matter of discretion, to determine the issues between the applicants and the agency in the present case by granting a declaration, for the following reasons:

- 1 Under European and domestic law it was the agency which had the initial heavy responsibility of protecting the public against the dangers to health which could result from the unlicensed marketing of medicinal products.

- 2 It was also the agency's equally important initial responsibility to decide what was or was not a medicinal product. Unless it determined that a substance was a medicinal product there was no action which it could lawfully take to control its use.

- 3 The decisions of the European Court made it clear that in coming to a decision on the facts as to whether a product was medicinal there was scope for a not insignificant element of policy to enter into the determination.

- 4 Any answer which was given by the agency or by the courts would only be determinative on the facts under consideration. A decision made now could be misleading in a relatively short period of time.

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Any answer which was given by the agency or by the courts would only be determinative on the facts under consideration. A decision made now could be misleading in a relatively short period of time.

4 Both the determination of the facts and the application of the policy in a case such as the present was not ideally suited to the adversarial processes of the courts. If the case was one where the agency could not reasonably have come to the decision which it did so, the outcome was one which was conventionally determined on application would be different.

However, in the present case the agency was in a better position to evaluate the evidence than a judge. It had accumulated experience in relation to other products which a court lacked. It was an expert body. It had developed a consistent policy between similar products. The issues were ones in relation to which the court should be wary of becoming involved.

5 In the case of criminal proceedings the court had no alternative but to become involved. If a prosecution was instituted they had to redetermine the issue of medicinal product or not for themselves. However, the civil courts' jurisdiction was discretionary and there were the substantial reasons already indicated for declining jurisdiction.

6 In the present case his Lordship was not impressed by arguments based on interfering with imminent criminal proceedings. The agency had not objected to holding their hand (in respect of criminal proceedings) for judicial review proceedings.

However, where what was involved was a declaration by the agency as a medicinal product, his Lordship did not consider that as a matter of discretion the civil courts should readily exercise their discretionary jurisdiction to redetermine the facts in civil proceedings against the wishes of the agency.

It was one of the merits of the declaratory jurisdiction that its deployment could be reserved for situations where its exercise would be in the public interest, which was not the case here.

Lord Justice Robert Walker gave a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT, concurring, said that it would not be right for the court to exercise its discretion to grant the declaration sought for there appeared to be no good reason to do so and a very good reason, the imminence of criminal proceedings, not to.

Solicitors: Hunt Kidd, Newcastle upon Tyne; Solicitor, Department of Health.

Notice of intention to return need not be in writing

King v The Hundred of Hoo Nursery

Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr A. E. R. Manners and Ms B. Switzer

[Judgment May 21]

The information that an employee who was absent on maternity leave intended to return to work required by section 80(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, did not have to be in writing.

The structure of the maternity rights provisions was to ensure that an employee who was pregnant, and her employer who would be responsible for paying maternity pay, had sufficient communication with each other so that they might make sensible arrangements for a return to work. Industrial tribunals should arrive at conclusions which gave effect to the purpose of the legislation and which seemed to them just and sensible.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal that the applicants, Miss Sara King, did not have the right to return to work after childbirth to her former employer, the Hundred of Hoo Nursery, her employers, and that her complaints of unfair dismissal and sex discrimination should be dismissed.

Section 71 of the 1996 Act gave a general right to maternity leave. Section 75(1) empowered leave not to have that right unless within certain dates she informed her employer of the pregnancy and

expected week of childbirth in writing. Section 79 provides for the right to return to work.

Section 80 provides: "(1) An employee does not have the right conferred by section 79 unless she includes with the information required by section 75(1) the information that she intends to exercise that right."

Mr Michael Kallipetis, QC, who did not appear below, for the applicant; the employers did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the applicant did not tell anyone that she was pregnant until shortly before the birth on July 19, 1996. On that day her father told the confinement certificate to her employers.

The certificate did not state that the applicant wished to return to work after her maternity leave. He was told by the employers to tell his daughter not to worry about her job.

In September the applicant wrote saying she would like to return to work in December but the employers replied that they were unable to re-employ her. The industrial tribunal held that because the applicant had not said when she notified her employers of her pregnancy and the fact that she wished to take maternity leave that she wanted to return to work, she lost the right to return.

It found that since she did not have the right to return she could not have been dismissed and that

since there was no dismissal there was no discrimination.

The right to return to work provisions were contained in sections 79 to 85 of the 1996 Act. If a woman had the requisite period of employment, as the applicant did, she had the right to return to the job she previously held as though she had remained employed in it throughout the leave period.

The question was whether the "information that she intended to exercise the right [to return to work]" had to be in writing. There was nothing in section 80(1) which said it must be, but the employee must "include" it with the information which itself was required to be in writing. Could information provided orally be included with information required to be in writing?

Mr Kallipetis accepted that the legislation was confusing and unclear. It was obviously regrettable that that should be so with legislation that conferred valuable and important legal protection rights on a vulnerable group of people.

The legislation was designed to give effect to the United Kingdom's European Community obligations under Council Directive 92/85/EEC (OJ 1992 L348/1).

Article 10 required member states to take necessary measures to prohibit the dismissal of workers during the period from the beginning of their pregnancy to the end of their maternity leave. It would not have been difficult for

Parliament to have constructed clear, straightforward and workable statutory provisions. As it was, the workings of the Act were, unless it was purposively construed, likely to cause injustice to some pregnant women.

The structure of the part of the Act concerned with maternity rights was to ensure that the employee who was pregnant and the employer who would be responsible for paying maternity pay had sufficient communication with each other so that they might make sensible arrangements for a return to work.

The detailed provisions were complex and the only way in which the industrial tribunal could effect the purpose of the legislation and which seemed to them to be just and sensible.

In the present case the industrial tribunal had allowed itself to be persuaded to a conclusion which rights which were conferred on an applicant and which did not sensibly reflect the policy of the Act.

The tribunal had been concerned about whether notification of the wish to return to work had been made at the right time and whether it was made in the right form.

If section 80(1) was to be construed literally to the effect that the intention to return to work could not be expressed in any form before or after section 75(1) was complied with, absurdity would result and the purpose of the directive circumvented.

Parliament had intended that notification of a return to work was to be provided as soon as reasonably practicable. "Includes" information did not demand that the information had to be provided at one and the same time.

In the present case, the information that the applicant wished to return to work, was given at the same time as the notification of the birth, there was nothing in the statute requiring that the information had to be in writing. Had that been a requirement it would have said so.

The appeal would be allowed. The applicant was dismissed by reason of her exercising her statutory right to return to work.

Solicitors: Linforth, Chatham.

Transfer of undertaking in loss of contract

ECM (Vehicle Delivery Service) Ltd v Cox and Others

Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr D. A. C. Lambert and Mr P. A. L. Parker

[Judgment May 15]

Where employees were dedicated to servicing a particular contract, which by ECM (Vehicle Delivery Service) Ltd from a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at Hull upholding claims of unfair dismissal made against the company by Mr Brian Cox and 23 other applicants.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC, for ECM; Mr James Taylor for the applicants' employees.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the applicants were drivers and yardmen who had been employed by Axial Ltd at Grimsby in the delivery of vehicles pursuant to a contract Axial Ltd had with VAG Ltd. In 1992 Axial Ltd the VAG contract to ECM. ECM decided not to employ any of the ex-Axial workers.

The industrial tribunal found that if there had been no VAG contract the applicants would have had no jobs and was satisfied that there was a direct causation of the loss of their jobs by the transfer of the VAG contract to ECM which retained its identity following the transfer.

It was submitted by ECM that all that had been transferred was a particular activity and that, in the light of *Silken v Zechnacker Gebäudereinigung GmbH Kronach* (Case C-13/95) (1997) HCR 602 and *Bates v Brintel Helicopters* (1997) ICR 792, there was no longer a basis for saying that there was a transfer

within the 1981 Regulations. It was important to note that in *Silken* the Court of Justice of the European Communities had referred to its earlier decision in *Schmidt v Spar- und Leihkasse der früheren Ämter Bordesholm, Keil und Cronshagen* (Case C-392/92) (1995) ICR 237 without any indication that it required material change of the employer's identity. It was understood that there was no conflict between the decisions in *Schmidt* and *Silken*, although there might have been a change in emphasis. Neither the presence nor the absence of any one factor would demonstrate that a transfer had or had not occurred.

It was a question of looking at the facts and keeping an eye on the purpose of the protection given by Council Directive 77/187/EEC (OJ 1977 L61/26).

Put another way, the transfer of an activity was a necessary but not a sufficient condition for a transfer to occur; the transfer of staff, assets or goodwill was neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition.

In *Schmidt* the cleaning operation was a discrete and ancillary part of the employer's business. When the employer disposed of that business the plaintiff lost her job. But, if a contract cleaning company with many clients lost one to a competitor, its core business still remained.

It was not possible to state with precision the factors which differentiated the one situation from the other, but one distinction was that in *Schmidt* the plaintiff was, and was dedicated to, an employer's cleaning business, whereas employees of a contract cleaning company were not likely to be dedicated in that way. So, the loss of a customer might not of itself bring about a situation in which dedicated and identified staff lost their employment.

The Directive did not aim to protect employees from the chill wind of redundancy; it did seek to protect them when the business in which they were dedicated had been transferred and a new employer had come on the scene.

In *Silken* (at p67, paragraph 16) the Court of Justice had contrasted

losing a customer with a service industry ceasing fully to exist.

The industrial tribunal had considered that very issue and held that without the VAG contract there would have been no employment for the drivers and yardmen, and that it was that feature that distinguished the case from a mere loss of a customer.

If ECM had taken on the drivers and yardmen, it could have been no argument but that there was a transfer of a discrete economic entity which retained its identity after the transfer.

The tribunal found that ECM did not take on the men precisely because they were asserting that the 1981 Regulations applied and were threatening proceedings on that basis. An obvious inference was that thereby ECM hoped to defeat their claims.

The question arose, therefore, whether it was possible for a transfer to cause the regulations to be disapplied by refusing to take on the workforce.

Silken did not expressly deal with that situation. But a purposive approach to interpretation should be adopted to give effect to the United Kingdom's obligations.

It would not be proper for a transferee to be able to control the extent of his obligations by refusing to comply with them in the first place.

The continued employment of the applicants was contingent on the continued existence of the VAG contract. As such there was an economic entity as distinct from a mere activity, and it retained its identity after the transfer; the customers were essentially the same and the work done was essentially the same.

The industrial tribunal had asked the right questions and applied the law as understood both before and after *Silken* and *Beitz*, anticipating the distinction drawn in *Silken* between the transfer of an activity and the transfer of an undertaking, and between the loss of a customer and the loss of a business.

Solicitors: Burnetts, Cartledge Bridge McFarland, Grimsby.

European Law Report

Whether actions involve the same parties

Drouot Assurances SA v Consolidated Metallurgical Industries (CMI Industrial Sites) and Others

Case C-351/96

Before C. Guldman, President of Chamber and Judges M. Wathelet, J. C. Molinier de Almeida, D. A. O. Edwards and L. Sevón

Advocate General N. Fennelly (Opinion January 15) [Judgment May 19]

Two actions, the parties to which included, in one action, the insurer of a vessel and, in the other, the vessel's owner and charterer, were only actions involving the same parties, for the purposes of the Brussels Convention, if it was established that the interests of those parties were identical and indivisible.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the Cour de Cassation, France, under the protocol of June 3, 1971 on the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the Brussels Convention of September 27, 1968 on Jurisdiction



THEATRE

Blessed on
comes to the
National

(Page 40)

THE TIMES

ARTS

POP

The cellist
who rocks
with the best

PAGE 41



Alek Keshishian's *In Bed With Madonna*: an American documentary that took £1 million at the British box office

They do sell, as a matter of fact

Film documentaries are popular and profitable in America, but shunned here. Nigel Cliff asks why

When did you last see a British documentary at the cinema? The answer is most likely never. Even if you wanted to — and many are turned off by the mere mention of the D-word — you probably couldn't. Few are made; even fewer released.

A few years ago this would have been no cause for surprise. Fiction, ritual, and feature documentaries were rarely given a public viewing. The increasingly youth-obsessed British film industry had no time for anything so risky and, well, boring. We had enough reality already, thank you. Cinemas were for escaping into easy emotions and spectacular effects.

Now the cinema has grown up again. Amid the sinking ships, exploding comets and rampaging monsters, real life is slowly edging back. Yet it is still not our life. American non-fiction features, always common currency in big-city cinemas in the United States, have cornered the market here too. So why are our cinemas, in terms of factual films, a British-free zone?

One popular view holds that we are simply not glamorous enough for our own liking. Certainly, many successful American documentaries have traded on famous names (*In Bed With Madonna* or the Muhammad Ali film *When We Were Kings*), or controversy (*Sick*, an explicit record of the masochistic performance artist Bob Flanagan), or both, most recently in Barbara Kopple's portrait of Woody Allen's music and marriage, *Wild Man Blues*.

But more than a few recent hits have performed the alchemist's miracle and turned seemingly unpromising raw material into cinematic gold. Take the 1990 film *Roger & Me*, in which people's champion Michael Moore cheekily pits his shambling David against the well-groomed Goliath of corporate America. Moore's attempt to do so is the chairman of General Motors and pose some uncomfortable questions would seem to place his film in the deeply unfashionable tradition of the social-issue documentary.

ingly eschews the impersonal style associated with the genre ever since the British documentaries of the Thirties, when John Grierson, the man responsible for the D-word, famously pronounced that "I look on cinema as a pulpit". Moore's film is more barroom bravado than solemn sermon, and it popularised a whole sub-genre in which the film-maker turns star.

Even more innovative have been such unlikely successes as the engrossing account of the creation of a single painting in *The Quince Tree Sun*, the dazzling pianist biography *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, and the 1994 basketball epic *Hoop Dreams*, which proved that documentaries are capable of supporting narratives as complex and compelling as anything in fiction.

If there are subjects aplenty, there are also talented film-makers to match — the award-winning British documentarians Nick Broomfield, Paul Watson or Molly Dineen, to name but three. But their work is nearly always confined to the small screen (the exception is Broomfield's impending first feature, *Kurt and Courtney*, its subject, inevitably, is American). And the small screen, according to many, is the culprit. Not only does it provide a steady diet of documentaries itself, but it has also narrowed our perception of what a documentary is.

"Television," says Dick Fontaine, head of documentary direction at the National Film and Television School and a leading campaigner for big-screen documentaries, "has trashed the documentary." This he puts down to its insatiable and undiscerning appetite for cheap time-fillers such as the ubiquitous docu-soaps, which he dismisses as

"Mickey Mouse work". But even where television is more ambitious — he cites the BBC's *Storyville* as a standard-bearer — Fontaine believes that it is incapable of exploiting the form's potential. Documentaries, the argument goes, rely on the observation of unexpected nuances or details, often caught in shadow or the corner of the frame. Television, Fontaine says, can only make "broad strokes and crude points".

If this seems harsh — documentary-makers, after all, take the television shilling — Fontaine is not alone in his view. Nick Broomfield has said that documentaries made for the cinema need to search for "a more epic quality, thematically and visually" than those for television. And a recent session of the Sheffield Documentary Festival was titled *Documentary's Dead Without The Big Screen*.

In the United States, where television has long neglected the documentary, Fontaine says that film-makers are forced to make films fit for the screen. It is hard to imagine British TV throwing up anything as consistently imaginative as Al Pacino's 1996 film *Looking For Richard*, which addresses the problems and pleasures of watching and playing Shakespeare by interweaving performance, rehearsal, research and discussion.

Of course, without Pacino's name the film might never have seen the light of day. But Fontaine thinks populism is no bad thing. "We don't want to be making arty-farty films that 14 people in Soho Square want to see," he says. "We should tell people something about the world that they might actually want to hear."

But to find an audience, films must first find a cinema.

and most big distributors are still unwilling to take a risk. Christopher Bailey, head of distribution at Polygram UK, had a rare success with *When We Were Kings*. But he says there is no market for documentaries, and he would be "incredibly wary" of taking on another. He has a point. According to a recent report, in the past four decades only five have taken more than £100,000 at the box office in Britain (the most successful, *In Bed With Madonna*, is the only one to have passed £1 million), and only 20 have earned more than £10,000.

A few smaller distributors are more documentary friendly. Will Clarke of the Feature Film Company, responsible for *Wild Man Blues* and *Hoop Dreams*, thinks that with sympathetic marketing there is a viable niche market for the right film — as long as you avoid the D-word. "Calling a film a documentary is like calling something a British film a few years ago," he says. But even Clarke is wary of the British product.

So is there a big-screen future for British non-fiction films, as we should perhaps call them? Roger Shannon, head of production at the BFI, would like to help. The BFI aims to part-fund one feature documentary a year: its current project is the story of Cecil Williams, a white South African theatre director who was arrested in the Sixties while touring the country (with Nelson Mandela posing as his chauffeur) to promote the armed struggle. But the BFI is strapped for cash and most of its fund is aimed at fiction.

Inevitably, people look to the lottery for help. But the Government's mind is elsewhere in a land where *The Full Monty* reigns. A prominent group of documentary-makers applied for one of the lottery-funded commercial film production franchises but was turned down: the promise of a non-commercial franchise came to nothing. Amid all the hoopla over the more fashionable end of the British film industry, it looks as if the poor old documentary is in danger of being forgotten again.

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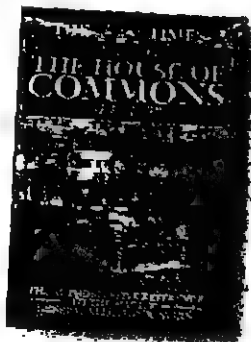
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CHANGING TIMES

Andy Lavender on the Cumbrian arts initiative that transformed a town

Lanterns in the Lakes

Tucked away in a corner of Cumbria is the small town of Ulverston (pop. 12,000), where you will find one of Britain's most venerable arts outfits. Engineers of the Imagination — better known as Welfare State International — have been a street theatre company, a touring cabaret, the purveyor of carnivalesque agitprop and the organiser of festivals, spectacles, processions and ceremonies. There have been residences in America, Canada and Australia. Some of the work has involved thousands of participants. One event during the group's seven-year residency in Barrow-in-Furness attracted more than 15,000 people. Around 15 years ago Fox and Gill decided to concentrate on "vernacular" projects: community art geared around secular rituals — hence the "how to" books on organising funeral ceremonies (published) and domestic ceremonies (forthcoming) — and local celebrations involving the burghers of Ulverston. The company's sway in this Lakeland town on the edge of England is remarkable.

Let us take, first, Ulverston's annual lantern festival, instituted by WSI in 1983, which attracts a turnout of more than 6,000 people. Last year's event featured three separate processions which met at the town's central crossroads, where WSI staged a spectacle featuring fire models ("That's a greenhouse with wings," says Fox, WSI's artistic director, as he shows me the slides), fireworks and Cuban-inspired music played by the town band. One local resident wrote approvingly that the festival "is gloriously free of commercialism; there is no outside sponsorship, nobody is trying to sell us anything". In fact, everything is resolutely handmade, from the smallest lantern to the large illuminated model of a Morecambe Bay horse and carriage.

Earlier this year WSI helped to organise the town's first Flag and Banner Festival. Shops and businesses flew their own flags, designed by children. A number of more extravagant standards were

raised around the town. The fortnight was kicked off, of course, by another procession featuring two different bands. Light, fire, emblems and music. You can see how WSI taps into the most evocative quantities.

The townspeople of Ulverston are now gathering wind for their second annual Comedy Festival, which in part commemorates Stan Laurel, the town's celebrated son. "It's a kind of variety show of street acts," Fox explains. "We're trying to do more home-grown comedy, so we do a week of workshops in the evenings and then put something on. It's starting small but it will develop its own momentum."

This rash of festivities is partly strategic. Galvanised by WSI's efforts, the town council plans to turn

Ulverston into a renowned festival centre, to which end it has appointed a former member of WSI as its new festivals officer. Meanwhile, the builders are at work on WSI's new Lantern House (Centre for the Celebratory Arts), a conversion of a former church school opposite the Stan Laurel Inn. The project costs £2.2 million, three quarters of which is provided by National Lottery funding.

The development features a new block to house artists in residence. There is a garden with a storytelling area (a raised earth circle) with space for a bonfire in the middle. The main building includes rooms for exhibitions, lectures, desk-top publishing and music, along with offices and other facilities. The adjoining barn, which now nestles under a swooping roof, provides a large performing space with a "shadow screen" at one end. Inventive ceremonies have already marked various stages of the site's development.

Who will work in these salubrious surroundings when the Lantern House opens next spring? "It's for people who have a sense of exploring, as artists or scientists," says Fox. "There might be town planners, or physicists. It is a question of putting people together and seeing what comes out. But there is a context for it. I see the artist's and creator's role as servicing the community, and I think our job is to train cultural thinkers who can work together across disciplines."

● The Ulverston Comedy Festival takes place this Saturday. The Lantern Festival takes place on September 19. For details of WSI's work and publications phone 01229 581127



Earlier this year Welfare State International helped to organise Ulverston's first Flag and Banner Festival

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
GILLIAN REVIE

Age: 27

Profession: Ballet dancer

Road to Covent Garden: It began in Bangor, Co Down, where she was born. First came Irish dancing lessons; three years in a row she was Junior Northern Ireland champion. Then she discovered ballet. At 11 she entered the Royal Ballet School in London. She got a job with the Royal Ballet in 1988; in 1995 she became a soloist.

So things went well? "I did Mary Yetsa in *Mayerling*" — one of the sexiest parts in all ballet — "in my third year. I was still in the corps de ballet. It was a huge challenge." And a huge success.

But then things started to go wrong: "MacMillan died. I don't know what would have happened if he had lived." It was MacMillan, after all, who had cast Revie when she was off for nine months. "That really set me back. It is only in the past couple of years that I have been getting back to the good work again." Last year she starred in *Anastasia*, another big MacMillan role. And in July at the Coliseum, Revie dances Lescaut's Mistress in his *Manon*.

Ballet is a dangerous profession: "It was last year. I was dancing *The Judas Tree* with Irek Mukhamedov. It was all going really well until he caught my eye with his finger and completely blinded. At that point I was out of control. I was being pushed around by all those boys so I could hide the fact that I was in agony and couldn't see."

How is the closure of Covent Garden affecting the dancers? "It's quite hard for us having these block performances. We are so used to dancing throughout the whole year, it's strange being in training for two months. But the company is looking pretty hot; everybody is just desperate to get on that stage at the Barbican on Monday." Which is when the Royal's next London season opens.

Homecoming queen: In November the Royal Ballet performs at the opera house in Belfast, the first time the company has been to Northern Ireland. "That's going to be exciting for me, the only Irish dancer in the Royal Ballet."

DEBRA CRAINE



You'll believe time can fly

OPERA: The Coliseum is staging a Jules Verne story. Hilary Finch reports

Imagine it if you will: a small 19th-century community, sleepy to the point of comatose, where a single pace propels you forward just 13 inches per second; where betrothals last for 30 years; and where Figaro's first aria from *The Barber of Seville* takes 58 minutes to perform. Then one day an inventor arrives. On the philanthropic pretext of improving the town's life with electric lighting, he injects it with a dose of oxyhydrogen gas.

An entire opera is over in ten minutes. Bills are rushed through parliament; relationships torn asunder; troops amassed. *Lento* becomes *prestissimo* overnight. And then there's a huge explosion. All this will happen at English National Opera on Monday.

The novelist who journeyed to the centre of the earth and sped round the world in 80 days has, in his little-known novella, *Dr Ox's Experiment*, been bewitching a composer, a librettist, a director and a designer for ten years. The composer Gavin Bryars, who has been seduced by Jules Verne for three decades, wrote a short chamber work called *Doctor Ox's Experiment* (Epilogue) for Valérie Anderson in 1988; on Monday the Canadian soprano makes her ENO debut singing the young lover Suzel, as the entire ghastly tale is unfolded. She will survive that apocalyptic explosion, and have the last word.

To discover what that could possibly be, I tracked down the writer Blake Morrison, whom Bryars chose as his librettist. "Gavin had read some of my poems. Maybe he thought that, as a fellow Yorkshireman, we fakes could work together!" Just as Bryars had found irresistible the notion of an opera about the manipulation of time, so Morrison, who has written about the Yorkshire Ripper and the Bulger case, was strongly drawn to the exploration of the social implications of scientific progress within Verne's playful yet dark fantasy.

There are obvious parallels, for instance, with the year 1989. I always remember Vaclav Havel saying that, when the doors opened and the light flooded in, people were dazzled, and stumbled around not knowing what they were doing. But neither Bryars nor Morrison wanted to be too explicit. "There's enough of the scholar in Gavin for him to feel reluctant to limit the work, to violate a writer he so reveres," Verne's little town of Quigendone is,



Riccardo Simonetti, suspended high over the Coliseum stage, prepares for his role as Ygène in Gavin Bryars's opera, *Doctor Ox's Experiment*

after all, Nowheresville. "It existed," Verne wrote, "in spite of geographies."

Has Morrison attempted in his libretto to recreate anything of Verne's own laconic tone of voice, his dry word-play? The burgomaster, we are told, "wore nothing out, not even himself." Morrison has certainly echoed Verne in plenty of his own *bons mots*.

And one scene in particular caught his fancy. In an exquisite verbal vignette, Verne evokes a picture of the two lovers Suzel and Frantz sitting on the riverbank, endlessly waiting out their 30-year engagement. Suzel draws a needle back and forth across a canvas; Frantz passes his fishing line slowly left to right, right to left. "Full of erotic potential," says Morrison.

If the sounding out of silence, the verbalising of the unspoken is enough of a

dilemma, then designer Michael Levine's task of visualising the invisible will surely be the biggest challenge of all. For a

start, he has had to work with virtually no idea of how the music sounds. "Usually, you listen to the CD of the opera, then in rehearsal you experience a kind of deconstruction of the music. Here it's the opposite. There's no recording, so we're slowly constructing the music. And Atom Egoian, the director, and I are trying to second guess its atmosphere."

In this atmosphere the presence of an invisible gas plays a somewhat crucial role. "That's what I call a real design problem. Of course, what you

have to show is its effects, its power." But trying to tease the secrets out of a designer is a conjuring trick in itself. Can

we expect any real magic? "Well, let's say that a certain kind of revelation will take place, both for those on stage and in the audience." Enlightenment, could you say? Levine's satirical *basso profundo* drops an octave: "Let's just say that the sense of reality changes. People will see things as

they are for the first time." The tenor Bonaventura Bottonne, the great Dr Ox himself, is a little less discreet. "but the most striking thing about the score is the sheer quantity of slow music. All those long, long lines, with enormous phrases. When you

take it into a space like the Coliseum, how on earth do you make it work? The cast has had to change their entire approach to phrasing, and to what they do with words. In Quigendone, after all, you can start a sentence, and the point of it may well come half a minute later!"

The ambiguities within the shifting tensions of Bryars's music intrigue Holmes. "Look at the ending, Suzel says things are back to normal, but the music suggests otherwise," Valérie Anderson knows that, as Suzel, she will survive the great explosion, but be changed for ever. "We're still trying to find a way to interpret that, to express it physically." So is there life after Dr Ox? Watch this space.

Doctor Ox's Experiment will be performed at the Coliseum on June 15, 20, 24, 30 and July 3 (0171-632 8300)

How do you show the effect of invisible gas?

Warming to a rare Rossini

A country-house opera for a country house. Garsington Manor opened its tenth season with Rossini's early comedy, *La pietra del paragone*, in which tests of fidelity are played out on the property of the bachelor Count Asdrubale, justly suspicious of his sponging guests. Finally he is put to the test himself and comes out with credit.

Così it is not. But the 20-year-old Rossini graced a shambles of a libretto, which comes to a halt at the end of Act I and has to be kick-started back into life, with one of his most disarming scores. Rossini can spot the germs of more famous operas to come: the storm of *Barbiere*, the gold-digging sisters of *Cenerentola*. Less sophisticated souls can simply enjoy the young entertainer expertly manipulating Italian comedy.

When Glyndebourne put on the piece 30 years ago it was widely (and justly) condemned for being retooled by Gunter Rennert. Garsington makes no such mistake. The Italian production team of Stefano Vizzoli and Susanna Rossi Jost play it as a Goldoni Rossini. She has provided hand-drawn costumes and visual gags in plenty; he keeps the action niftily spinning around Garsington's pretty terrace stage, it verges on pantomime, but no matter, for Rossini surrounded his two lovers with grotesques.

The most successful is the vernal journalist Macrobio, who has a marvellous patter song on the art of taking backhanders for putting the right news in and keeping the wrong news out. The young Italian baritone Riccardo

La pietra del paragone
Garsington

Novaro put it across with real panache. He was well balanced by Paolo Rumetz as the poet Pacuvio, who cannot persuade anyone to listen to his verses and has a nasty time in the woods during a thunderstorm. With the trees bent double at Garsington on opening night this scarcely needed visual illustration.

The most eloquent singing came from Charles Workman, expert Rossinian, as the more reputable poet, Giocondo. He handled with much grace the long and demanding Act II aria in which Giocondo laments that he is never going to win the heroine. And of course



Handsome costumes and visual gags in plenty: a Rossini with a genuine Italian feel

he doesn't, even though he is a tenor. She goes to Count Asdrubale, sung by Steven Page (baritone) with rather hard tone but a properly wary eye on those around him. Patricia Bardon as Clarice, the object of their desires and one

of Rossini's first mezzo leading ladies, was occasionally shrill in the upper register but otherwise gave a feisty and well-judged musical performance.

Anthony Peebles got the orchestra going after an uncer-

tain start. This was understandable on an evening cold enough to make the fingers numb. The audience was luckier, they now have under-seat heating.

JOHN HIGGINS

Dramatic impact lost by the score

The Maids
Lyric, Hammersmith

was the possibility of having the maids Solange and Claire played by the brothers Nigel and Christopher Robson. No one who knows the work of either the tenor or counter-tenor will be surprised that they give extraordinarily powerful performances, but the effect of their double act is still a little startling. Genet's original idea may have been to have the maids played by men, yet even he cannot have reckoned on two such similar-looking brothers taking up the challenge.

Role-play and illusion are central here, so having two brothers play two sisters who in turn pretend to be maid and mistress is an idea rich in possibilities. The Robsons carry off that idea with dignity and humour. There is nothing camp about their performances as they evoke all the unhappy pair's moods, moving from pathetic squabbling to touching tenderness.

Fuchs's production captures grippingly the way in which the uncontrolled and morbid fantasies of the two sisters are twisted into crime and ultimately murder. Rae Smith's simple set serves well: a black box filled with chaise-longue and dressing table.

At least the vocal lines are singable, even the slightly more neurotic writing for Madame, whose part inspires another outstanding performance from the mezzo Emma Selway. But the lines are like jazzed-up and watered-down Britten, and the accompaniments could come out of a television score. Lunn shows that he can write a tango but not music that is psychologically penetrating. Despite the best efforts of the conductor Dominic Wheeler and a chamber orchestra drawn from ENO, the music dragged rather than drove the drama.

JOHN ALLISON

Th-th-th-that's all terrific, folks

CONCERTS

Bugs Bunny on Broadway
Festival Hall

DISGUSTED of Tunbridge Wells would not have been pleased to hear that the South Bank was playing host to the world's most famous rabbit. Could this be the last word in all-American dumbing-down? Not really. No one could hear the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra accompany these old Warner Brothers cartoons without admiring the astute marriage of music and animation. This is film scoring of a high order.

In the cartoons, New World vigour meets Old World sophistication, symbolised by the scene in which Bugs Bunny disguises himself as Leopold Stokowski. The unsettling thought struck me that a modern-day producer who thought of likewise sending up Wagner and Liszt probably would not get past the focus groups.

Conductor George Daugherty has enjoyed enormous success with these concerts in America. Plenty of children turned out for the London premiere, but it was just as much an occasion for adults. What's Opera, Doc?, the famous spoof of *The Ring*, received another airing, as did the even sharper reworking of *The Barber of Seville*. But Daugherty had also unearthed more obscure shorts, including an inspired version of *The Blue Danube* in which

a drunken crocheter sends the waltz off-course.

Headphones plugged in, the orchestra skated through the scores. The more serious interludes took the form of straight performances of some of the source material, including a Pops confection entitled *Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna*. Daugherty's all too brief account of the history of the studios and the role of the synchronised "click" track was rather more pertinent.

His pot shots directed at rival Disney's musical values were not entirely fair. The modern films may be dull, but look how many fine tunes are crammed into, say, *Dumbo*.

At the end of the show we all had a chance to join in an ovation in honour of the late Mel Blanc, man of many voices. And we even had a chance to hear the pedal steel guitar demonstrate the rubber band-like "twang" at the beginning of the *Merrill Melodies* theme. Now that is what I call a masterclass.

CLIVE DAVIS

Surface flaws

Gergiev Philharmonia
Festival Hall

THE famous portrait of the wild, bearded Mussorgsky bears a remarkable resemblance to Valery Gergiev. Already a legendary figure, personally responsible for saving the Kirov Opera, Gergiev's

role in reviving Russian music cannot be underestimated. And hundreds of people came to hear this maestro of music theatre conduct Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. But did they hear all that he had to bring to these works? For Gergiev is also the ultimate modern jet-setting conductor with a notorious

schedule, and the Philharmonia is not an orchestra he has yet worked with extensively: there were unmistakable cracks in this reading of *Pictures*, and some ragged ensemble made for a strangely burdened *Rite*.

The Philharmonia did not always seem prepared to go to the extremes suggested by Gergiev. The opening *Promenade* had an unassuming, even laid-back gait and bass brass dragged in *Gnome*, but the performance gradually gathered pace and focus.

Ravel's inspired orchestration is endlessly fascinating, from the soulful saxophone and euphonium solos to the tubular bells. He opened up an aural exhibition of such rich fantasy that Hartmann's original drawings seem absurdly inadequate as artistic inspiration. Only perhaps his

design for the *Great Gate of Kiev* bears some relation to this masterly piece of triumphal music, and here it was a ravishing climax. From a conductor of ballet one would have expected to find a *Rite* that danced, but this reading was strangely heavy, leaving one with as strong an impression of melancholy as of the expected exhilaration.

Opening winds lacked rhythmic tension and, again, it took a while for the ensemble to settle. Stravinsky, the ultimate anti-Romantic, famously removed many of his original expression marks from this score and its compelling power as a concert piece lies in the vitality of its rhythms and the cool precision of the playing. But Gergiev found a stillness at this ballet's heart, and a mournfulness, which weighed on the performance. Nevertheless, his mapping between tempi revealed glimpses of high drama and he held the final rest for a breathtaking number of beats before going in for the kill. What London cries out for is a production of the ballet. The question is, how long must we wait?

HELEN WALLACE

Turkish delighting

An English orchestra brings the best of British to the Black Sea

The Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square - OSI, as they call themselves - have for years seemed comfortably English: small-scale, unhyphenated, named after a deconsecrated Westminster church and neighbour to Tory Central Office. Last year the OSI became Oxford's first resident orchestra.

So it was with some amazement that I learnt that the OSI were to play in Trabzon, an obscure town on Turkey's Black Sea coast, close to the Russian border. No Western classical orchestra has gone there before.

For many, Trabzon is better known as Trebizond. With the Crusader sacking of Constantinople in 1204, a Byzantine prince relocated the heart of the empire to this Black Sea port, which lay on the Silk Route and boasted beautiful princesses. This allure, along with numerous frescoed churches, lent the medieval city a reputation second only to Constantinople.

In Rose Macaulay's 1956 novel, *The Towers of Trebizond*, the allure has vanished: "Trebizond has gone, becoming Trabzon, with a black, squalid beach, and full of those who do not know the past, or that it ever was Trebizond and a Greek empire, and women muffled up and hiding their faces, and the Byzantine churches mostly turned into mosques ... or used for army stores."

Today, Trabzon is even more ramshackle, smothered by what look like half-built multi-storey car parks. As Clive Gobbie, director of Turkey's British Council, which was behind the orchestra's trip, put it: "It's private enterprise on the march. It will put Trabzon back on the map."

For John Lubbock, the OSI's founder and director, coming

to Turkey is really a continuation of a trip the orchestra made four years ago: "We were in Romania and Bulgaria and due to go on to Turkey, but it didn't happen. But contact with the British Council was made and here we are."

Lubbock, a tall, rangy figure, has led his orchestra since its inception 31 years ago with a single-mindedness he admits has verged on the unwieldy. He has never courted the media and makes few recordings. His gifted freelancers do not expect high wages and clearly do not mind going to strange places.

One of the violinists, who only two weeks before had been playing for Madonna, said: "Why on earth would we drop everything to come and play in Turkey for four nights? It's John. He's special to play for - no ego."

Still, the OSI's funding has been a persistent problem: the orchestra nearly went under in 1984, after a cheque bounced in Rome. Today, the band excel in educational work at home and imaginative programming on their foreign tours. Their three-pronged Turkish tour - two nights in Ankara, one in Istanbul, one in Trabzon - included pieces by Stephen Montague, John Woolrich and Nicholas Maw, contemporary composers who have all had close relationships with the OSI.

The British Council obviously asks for British music."

says Lubbock, "but I was surprised by how much modern stuff they wanted."

The concert itself in Trabzon's University was a first not only for the locals but for the OSI too. On a stage under one of Atatürk's slogans - "I'm proud to say I'm a Turk" - the 20-strong ensemble suffered a sudden diminution of lighting halfway through Stephen Montague's complex, vibrant hoedown piece, *Snakebite*, which apparently made the scores indecipherable.

Among the late arrivals was Trabzon's governor, not accompanied by an army of security hunkers. People were still arriving half an hour later. Loud applause between movements of the Mozart and Haydn elicited a pained observation from a Turkish Cypriot lady, "Please don't mention this habit. This music is not in our culture."

The encore undoubtedly was. Lubbock had tried out a piece from the Turkish composer Istemihan Taviloghlu's *Anatolian Suites* in Ankara and it went down a storm. In Trabzon the audience, mainly students, was rapturous.

The high status accorded the OSI's visit was apparent at Trabzon's swiftest hotel, where a lavish post-concert dinner was hosted by the governor. He had passed over a couple of ministers just arrived from Ankara in favour of the orchestra. Later, back at the bar-less hotel and spilling for a party, the musicians were quite unaware of this. Wheeling alcohol out of room service in this Muslim backwater was one of Lubbock's more taxing operations in years. As the off-colour jokes flew, the Turkish bellboy had no idea what had hit him.

JAMES WOODALL

LITERATURE

Learning with Beryl

Simon Armitage gave us two minutes in the sunshine at Hay-on-Wye to find an object to write a poem about. Out went 20 teachers and one journalist, and brought back: a broken stick, an empty ice-cream cone, a meadow bloom, an entire weathered wooden gate. As we sat in a circle, Armitage asked us: what does your object dream? What is its star sign? What is it not? How does it taste (not such a problem with the ice-cream cone)? We scribbled quickly at his instruction and then, in a few moments, strung together what might approximate a first draft of a poem. When Steve Walker, a teacher from Malvern, read out his ode to an abandoned gate, the swift result was remarkable. So can creative writing be taught, after all?

Armitage was one of two writers

I want to be a poet in my own write

At Hay-on-Wye, Erica Wagner learns how to stimulate the creative juices of the next generation of novelists and poets

taking part in a course on teaching creative writing at A level at this year's Sunday Times Hay Festival; the other, Beryl Bainbridge, told the assembled group that "nobody expects you to get up on a concert stage and play the piano after only one lesson a week". The one-day course for teachers, organised by Simon Powell of Updates Conferences, brought the two together with the NEAB chief examiner for A level and GCSE, Peter Buckroyd, to discuss strategies for teaching and assessing creative writing at A level, now an optional part of many examination boards. Buckroyd, an enthusiastic teacher and a writer himself, is eager to

dismiss the notion that teaching and examining creative writing necessitate a rule-bound approach to creativity. "In order to improve your writing, you need a reader to point things out to you," he says, and increasingly that's what a teacher is, at A level — an adult reader, a reader with more experience of writing, who can point out things the writer hasn't thought of. The argument that you can't teach creative writing suggests that there is something mystical about it —

which I think is nonsense. A lot of it is technique and skill."

Not everyone, of course, agrees, despite the success, at graduate level, of writing courses such as those at the universities of East Anglia, Hull and Leeds. A suspicion still hangs about them, as if their professors were only a step away from snake-oil salesmen.

But every year nearly 200 students of the NEAB board alone take an S-level paper which can include a timed creative-writing

exercise; almost 500 hand in an optional test in creative writing along with their English Language A level: 75 per cent of those receive an endorsement on their certificate. Buckroyd says that the quality of much of the material he sees astonishes him — and looking at some samples, it was hard to disagree.

The teachers at the conference were united in their desire to encourage such creativity — all, surely, would love to be as fondly

recalled as Beryl Bainbridge's Miss Fick, late of Merchant Taylors' School in her native Liverpool. The morning was spent looking at examples of students' writing; the truly inspiring part of the day, however, was when the group divided for sessions with Bainbridge and Armitage.

There was, in these discussions, hope mixed with a little despair: Bainbridge's description of listening to her father read Dickens aloud was clearly far removed from the way most young people now pass their evenings — although Steve Ballinger, from nearby Brecon High School, found his students gripped by Scamus

Deane's *Reading in the Dark*. "It's our responsibility to introduce them to books like this," he said. Good reading, after all, can lead to good writing. And Armitage's vigorous workshop — "Just keep writing," he said, "if you can't think of anything to write, just write 'I can't think of anything until something comes'" — was a reminder both of how inspiring a good teacher can be and of the courage required simply to put pen to paper. "It makes you think a bit more about what you're asking the kids to do," said Angela Levinson, who teaches in Walthamstow.

Teachers can inspire students to write, but writing is, after all, a solitary process. Armitage's words — just keep writing — are the ones to remember.

For more information on Updates Conferences call 01279-460388

How to knit pop and the classics with four strings

Cellist Caroline Dale has worked with Oasis and the RPO. And now she has a band to call her own, Nigel Williamson reports

Caroline Dale's hectic schedule would leave less versatile performers nursing a serious identity crisis. Last month the cellist was playing Brahms and Shostakovich with the Apollo Trio in New York. Last weekend she appeared at London's first major outdoor rock festival of the summer with her new pop band Ghostland. Come the autumn her cello playing will grace the movie *Jackie*, the much-anticipated blockbuster about the life of Jacqueline Du Pré. Meanwhile, as rock and pop's favourite classical performer, her diary continues to fill up with sessions for everyone from Oasis to Page and Plant.

It is hard to think of anyone else who crosses the boundaries between different musical genres quite so effortlessly. "It can be a problem jumping between so many different things," she says. "But before, I was still striving musically. With Ghostland I have found myself."

Ghostland's newly released debut album *Seven Arrows* is a mix of swirling strings, Baroque melodies, Arabic drones, Celtic lyricism and contemporary dance beats. The eclecticism of the sound reflects the band's diverse origins. While the Middlesbrough-born Dale was winning the BBC Young Musician of the Year award at the age of 13 and later studying at the Royal Academy, fellow band members John Reynolds and Justin Adams were growing up steeped in rock, punk and reggae. Reynolds married Sinead O'Connor and produced her records, while Adams played guitar with Jah Wobble.

The unlikely trio first came together last year working on sessions for the singer Natacha Atlas and discovered a shared desire to explore their own creativity. They recorded a single track as a demo, which, in storybook fashion, landed them a recording contract within 24 hours. Yet according to Dale they had no idea what was going to emerge when they got together. "It was through making the album that we learnt what we could do. We all

brought such completely different elements. I think the music creates a landscape, it's very cinematic." Although the album does use voices — most notably those of Sinead O'Connor and Natacha Atlas — Ghostland eschew conventional song structures. Voices are used "more as another instrument", Dale says. Equally striking is the album's fusion of Arabic and Irish melodies. "The scales are very similar," she explains. "There are a lot of fifths and fourths and the melodies are very spare. It isn't sumptuous all the time, but if you put some colours underneath, it is exciting."

The turning point was playing in Nigel Kennedy's quartet

Dale's pedigree includes a spell in the Balanescu String Quartet, performances as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra and recording the definitive version of Górecki's Third Symphony. "I thought I would always be a classical player," she says. "The turning point was playing in Nigel Kennedy's quartet. He encouraged me to be a total musician who enjoys playing everything."

Today Dale's name is first on the list every time the rock world needs a string arranger. She has worked on albums by Simply Red, Spiritualized, Peter Dinklage, Sleepers and Joan Armatrading, recorded with Oasis and performed live with Page and Plant and George Michael. "I always wanted the best of both worlds," she says.

Yet Dale found that while she was not emotionally satisfied by modern

classical composition, neither was she fulfilled by the simplicities of pop. The answer was Ghostland. "Modern classical composition for me lacks emotional response and I had always had an interest in popular music," she says. "But I felt very confined in pop because pop can often use strings in a very banal way. Ghostland is the opportunity to push forward the boundaries of the relationship between classical and pop."

Classically trained musicians experience huge problems in the pop world when asked to improvise, she says. "It is like bungee jumping. You know you are not going to die but it feels like it." Once she had learnt to love the freedom of improvisation, she says that composing was the next logical step. "I always put off writing because I thought Brahms and Beethoven had said it all. But I grew frustrated not doing my own stuff. I realised that I could do something different by adding other elements to the classical tradition."

Dale is hugely excited about working on the Du Pré film, in which she plays all the cello solos. "It was a thrill because she started me on the cello. When I was five I was taking piano lessons and not getting on at all. Then I heard this amazing noise on the radio and it was Du Pré. I told my mother there and then I wanted to be a cellist."

When Dale won the Young Musician of the Year in 1978, Du Pré wrote offering her support. "She used to come along every time I played at the Purcell Room or the Wigmore Hall and she was an inspiration. To be asked to be her musical voice in the film was a dream come true."

The last word on how well Dale straddles the two musical worlds goes to fellow Ghostland member Justin Adams. "I'm beginning to learn a lot from Caroline," he says. "My horizons are being expanded. Most classical players I have worked with cannot improvise. To find one like Caroline who has got groove is very rare."

Seven Arrows is on EastWest



Mixing it: Caroline Dale and Ghostland are pushing at the boundaries between classical and pop music

Movie tones

OVER the past ten years, Barry Adamson has established himself as the king of the imaginary soundtrack. After starting out as the bassist in the influential Mancunian punk band Magazine, followed by a brief stint with Nick Cave's Bad Seeds, Adamson found his true calling in 1988 when he did a superb reworking of Elmer Bernstein's theme from *The Man With the Golden Arm*.

Back then, few people were interested in film noir, but Adamson used it as a key to unlock the movies in his own head, delving into jazz, funk, smouldering soul and the blues. The result was an impressive trilogy of albums — *Moss Side Story*, *Soul Murder* and *Oedipus Schmoedipus* — plus contributions to several Hollywood soundtracks, including David Lynch's *Lost Highway*.

Barry Adamson: Emporium, WA

Adamson's latest album, *As Above, So Below*, is his most lyrical yet and, rather than using guest vocalists — *Oedipus Schmoedipus* featured Cave and Jarvis Cocker — he took the microphone himself. So it seems appropriate that Adamson is playing his first live shows in ten years and rather typical that he chose a three-night stand in a sleazebag dance club, complete with Greek statues.

As it happened, the raised dance floor did not make this an ideal venue, and many people were forced to climb on tables or chairs in order to catch a glimpse of the band. But, suave as ever in a red shirt and dark suit, Adamson turned out to be a natural frontman, quickly coming into his own on the finger-clicking soul of *Can't Get Used to Losing You*, a dark take on the Andy Williams classic.

Although most of the set revolved around the jazz-fuelled, Tom Waits-style narratives of the new album, Adamson hinted at the extent of his range when he segued Sade's *By Your Side* into the molten mantras of John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme*, before nodding to his past with a slowed-down version of Magazine's *Permafrost*.

ANN SCANLON

Readlocked, bespectacled, streetwise: the clarinetist and composer Don Byron is a musical chameleon. The main thrust of his work has always been jazz-related, but his mercurial dalliance with forms as varied as Schumann chamber music, 1930s Duke Ellington and hip-hop means that it is hard to detect his own musical voice.

Having flirted with Tom and Jerry film scores and klezmer music, Byron has now chosen to confront racial and social politics with his new band Existential Dread. They are making their British debut in a Contemporary Music Network tour built around their newly released album *Nu Blaxploitation*.

Black political issues are not new to Byron. His 1992 album, *Tuskegee Experiments*, created disturbing music around the American government's long-term observations of the effects of syphilis on a control group of black males. The words were by the Detroit poet Sadiq Bey, and his reunion with Byron is the core of the new band and its repertoire.

"These are not just news-worthy items that come and go," says Bey. "I don't see us standing on a soapbox and raising our fists, but the message is very strongly: Listen — nothing's changed. Can we discuss this?"

At his best, Bey works by putting a black persona into an allegorical framework on pieces such as *Alien*, his words

Irons in every fire

Is jazzman

Don Byron too versatile for his own good?

delivered by an extraterrestrial. For these pieces Byron has provided anguished, fragmented settings, his spiky clarinet lines running across the fractured piano of Uri Caine and a heavy funk beat. Here is an authentic voice, a union of musical and verbal



Byron: riding his wide musical range

content, but Byron's obsession with a range of forms rarely lets this develop.

The most vibrant performances on *Nu Blaxploitation* are recreations of the 1970s funk band Mandrill, where Byron's sheer talent for breathing life into musical recreation takes over, subduing any political message by his sheer virtuosity.

This is the paradox at the heart of his work, and he recognises it. "I could be working in an idiom connected to reality, or I could be playing a kind of folk music for coke-smoking, cognac-drinking New Yorkers." Yet, what has brought him most fame is precisely his ability to play for the leisured New Yorkers, who marvel at his repertory performances.

The effect on the album is to mute its thought-provoking impact. He clearly wants to revitalise the socio-political subject of the work of Mingus or Coltrane, but without the kind of stimulus that Vietnam offered, he has to work much harder to rekindle the flame. His tour gives him the chance to allow his own musical voice to appear.

ALYN SHIPTON

• *Nu Blaxploitation* is released this month by Blue Note
• Don Byron and Existential Dread play the Irish Centre, Leeds, tonight; Band on the Wall, Manchester tomorrow night; Barbican, London, Fri; the Drum, Birmingham, Sat

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor reassesses the virtues of the 18th-century cult of the cute

The discreet charm of the sentimental

In the 18th century, Reason went hand-in-hand with Sensibility; if they believed in the Sublime, they also believed in the Picturesque. There seems to have been a general softening-down of attitudes during the century in which Sheridan took the place of Congreve, and we need look no further to explain the tremendous popularity of the "fancy picture", celebrated in Kenwood's *Angels and Urchins* exhibition.

The fancy picture has not been much appreciated of late, for the same reasons that Murillo, arguably its great progenitor for British collectors, has been downgraded in relation to his Spanish predecessors such as Velázquez and successors such as Goya. In the 20th century, art-lovers have tended to prefer something less saccharine, if not positively abrasive.

We may still relish the portraits and landscapes of Gainsborough, the conversation pieces of Zoffany, but what do we know of their sentimental side? With less currently popular painters such as Reynolds, the cute pictures of sanitised peasants and chubbily appealing infants are mostly forgotten.

Artists whose whole stock-in-trade was this kind of thing have been virtually expunged from the canon, while every last savage caricaturist is recalled with approval: witness the rediscovery of the radical Richard Newton (1777-1798) at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

But is this out-of-hand dismissal of a whole school of British painting fair? That is what *Angels and Urchins* sets out to examine. If we start with the famous painters such as Gainsborough, Reynolds and Joseph Wright of Derby, we can see at once how far they were able to deal with sentimentally appealing subject-matter without themselves falling down a treacle well. Gainsborough chooses to depict his own daughter Margaret as a gleaner, a suitable activity for the deserving poor, who were particularly favoured in fancy pictures. Her expression is less wistful than faintly resentful, as though she is wondering how much longer she must hold this wretched bundle of corn. The girl, the field and the sky are exquisitely painted in Gainsborough's most impressionistic manner, and one can hardly imagine anything less sentimental.

Reynolds is less trustworthy. *The Infant Academy*, with a lot of naked children pretending to be artists and models, is definitely on the saccharine side, and even *Cupid with Bow* is saved only by the slightly Puckish aspect Reynolds has lent him. A *Fortune Teller* is saved largely by the slightly menacing aspect of the fortune teller herself and the worried expression of the young mother whose fortune is being told. Joseph Wright simply uses the subject of *Two Girls Dressing a Kitten by Candlelight* as a pretext for one of his virtuoso exercises in chiaroscuro, and the result is charming yet rigorous. And what is wrong with charm?

There is much delicate sentiment which remains safely this side of sentimentality. John Opie's *A Peasant Family*, with the mother giving her daughter a drink while a very doggy dog tries to intervene, evades much very skillfully, and Hugh Robinson's *Boy Flying a Kite* is a brilliant study in implied tensions.

If every now and then we are stopped by incredulity, as in Sir William Beechey's *The Children of Sir Francis Ford giving Coins to a Beggar Boy*, it is because of some patent falsity in the scene (the beggar

boy is too obviously in fancy dress and striking a pose), and the ability to perceive that is no monopoly of our own day. The great virtue of this show is that it makes us look again at a sort of painting we would normally



Saving grace: *Cupid with Bow* is redeemed by the slightly Puckish air Sir Joshua Reynolds has lent him

nudge aside, and shows that the virtues as well as the vices are perennial.

• *Angels and Urchins* is at Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0181-348 1288). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Aug 9

TENNIS

Australian threatens to cast aside Wimbledon

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE grass-court season is supposed to silence rampant Spaniards and amplify explosive customers such as Mark Philippoussis. Imagine the surprise, therefore, when Philippoussis, the defending champion and seeded No 9, was ousted from the Stella Artois championships yesterday by Jordi Burillo, a Spaniard playing his first match on the sword for three years.

On second thoughts, it was not quite the upset it seemed. Philippoussis, of Australia, has endured a dreadful year both on and off the court. His results have been disappointing and he has been in bitter conflict with his Davis Cup colleagues.

Philippoussis's mind is in turmoil; his tennis in decline — so much so that he suggested that he might not play at Wimbledon later this

month. "This year has been pathetic for me," he said. "I have no desire and people can see that in me. I can't afford to give away matches like that. It is better not to go out to the court at all."

Burillo's 7-6, 7-5 triumph was all about Philippoussis imploding than any great strides on the part of the Spaniard. He was unsure of foot throughout, although two double faults — the second when set-point down — contrived to lose him the opening set. He did not have the stomach to recover.

Only Philippoussis, nicknamed "Scud" for his powerful service, would contemplate dishing up a second serve of 170kph when trailing 10-9 in a tiebreak. Such brazen risk-taking underlines his propensity to self-destruct.

Philippoussis denied that his friction with John Newcombe, the Australia Davis Cup captain, has influenced his mood, but his refusal to represent his country in April has surely contributed to his sense of isolation.

The situation was compounded when he turned up for the tie against Zimbabwe and commented on his compatriots' losing effort on television.

The priority now is for Philippoussis, 21, to arrest his slump. "I really don't know

what it is," he said. "I am very confused. I didn't do well on clay in Europe and I was looking forward to playing on grass. That has backfired."

Those sentiments very much applied to three of Britain's four wild-card entrants. Home soil has proved a fertile source of success for the likes of Andrew Richardson, Mark Petchey and Martin Lee, but they were all bundled out by footsolders of the circuit. Only Chris Wilkinson advanced to the second round, in yet another demonstration of Britain's lack of depth beyond Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman.

Wilkinson was involved in a running feud with Mohammed Lahyani, the umpire, in the closing stages of his match with Sandon Stolle, of Australia. Lahyani made some strange calls, particularly when he overruled a linejudge and erroneously refused to have the point replayed. Wilkinson, the British No 3, sufficiently retained his composure to prevail 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

Of the vanquished British trio, Lee's demise was the most disappointing when set against the progress he made here 12 months ago. On that occasion, it took Goran Ivanisevic to topple Lee in the third round. This time he resumed a perilous overnight position against Sargis Sargsian, of Armenia, and succumbed without protest.

If Lee has regressed, Richardson, ranked No 161, has at least maintained his position in the world order. However, he will rue his third-set collapse against Daniel Nestor, of Canada. Richardson should have been more comfortable with the gusting winds, yet his service, usually a tower of strength, betrayed him.

This was very much an opportunity spurned by Richardson, who would have faced the out-of-form Jonas Bjorkman, seeded No 4, in the event of victory.

Marat Safin, the young Russian who made such an impact at the French Open, has been given a wild-card entry for Wimbledon. Conqueror of Andre Agassi and Gustavo Kuerten, Safin, 18, joins the British trio of Wilkinson, Richardson and Mark Petchey in the main draw. The three remaining wild cards are to be allocated this week.



Ivanisevic, from Croatia, reaches for a backhand volley during his 6-1, 7-6 victory over David Wheaton yesterday

Wimbledon beyond Becker

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN HALLE

AFTER all the games, all the rumours and all the hopes, Boris Becker has at last admitted that one more crack at Wimbledon is beyond him. The fact was made very clear to him yesterday in the first round of the Gerry Weber Open. Playing Hendrik Dreekman, one of the great hopes of German tennis a few years ago but now just another one of the anonymous journeymen on the ATP Tour, he was outplayed, and, ultimately, outfought in an epic, if not necessarily classic, match.

"I knew I would have to win a couple of rounds here to give myself a chance, but losing in the first round — that is it. I know I am not ready," he said.

"I tried, but I knew that I had to perform. I had to deliver. I didn't do that today and that is why my decision is final. I am disappointed now, but after I have slept on it for a couple of nights, I will be relieved. It would have been a tremendous amount of pressure and a huge burden to carry for the next couple of weeks. But, at heart, I am a competitor. I want to win not just to play. That is what has brought me to this decision."

Played in front of a capacity 12,000 crowd — something of an achievement given that the

town of Halle has a population of only 20,000 — Becker sweated for more than two hours to try and get his game out of second gear, but all to no avail. With limited match play these days, he usually takes a few games to get up to full speed, but by the time the first set had slipped from his grasp, even he must have realised that this was going to be hard work.

Dreekman made life easy for himself, serving exceptionally well in the opening stages

while Becker, normally lethal on the backhand return, was lucky to get a racket on most deliveries. The only break point came from a Becker double fault — he was not having much luck on his service either — and when Dreekman blasted a forehand return past him to take a 4-2 lead the first set was effectively over.

Gradually Becker began to look a little more like his old self in the second set as the aces started to mount up, but

Golarsa beats showers to defeat Chladkova

LAURA GOLARSA, of Italy, became the first winner at the stop-start DFS Classic at Birmingham yesterday when she beat last year's Wimbledon surprise quarter-finalist, Denisa Chladkova, of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-5 in a first-round match interrupted by rain.

Golarsa, 30, who is best remembered for being within two points of beating Chris Evert in the last eight of Wimbledon in 1989, was a set

up and 4-4 in the second when a heavy shower forced the players off.

On the resumption, the 19-year-old Chladkova held her service to go 5-4 up, but Golarsa — at 79 ranked 19 places below Chladkova — won the next three games to reach round two.

Steffi Graf, the number one seed from Germany, has yet to make her tournament bow having been granted a first round bye.

Contempt for players earns just deserts

SIMON BARNES

Let us begin with a sad tale, one that has always rather haunted me. It concerns an old fellow, one not easily Alzheimered but being wrought, perplexed in the extreme. His loving daughters lovingly moved him to accommodation that would make his life less full of daily worries. But moving, as we all know, invariably is pure hell. And about three quarters of the way through, the old fellow turned to his daughters and asked: "In the name of what are we doing this?"

The England rugby union team would be fully justified in asking the same question, and so would everyone who has a passing interest or affection for England rugby union teams, and so would anyone who takes a passing pleasure in seeing England rugby union teams getting beaten. All of these people are getting short-changed.

England are touring the three finest rugby union nations on earth. Perhaps, in terms of the fitness and method of the modern era, the three finest and most ferocious rugby union teams there have been.

And they are taking them on with a team that would struggle to qualify as the England second XV.

They began last weekend by losing 76-0 to Australia. England's worst international defeat. I am by no means sanguine of the lasting power of that record. I fancy it will be broken again and again in the coming weeks as England play New Zealand and South Africa.

Send 'em home! That is the invariable cry when a tour gets off to a bad start. It is the cheapest of cheap journalism, because they never do send 'em home. And why should they? The team is the best England can put together and it must hope that some players find long-term strength in catastrophe.

But this team is not the best that England can produce. The best players are all at home, mending their hurts from a long season of professional rugby. Many are recovering from surgery: this groin, that cartilage.

A plain and obvious fact is that the human body cannot stand playing rugby 12 months of the year. It is a game of violent physical confrontation and one in which the slightest hesitation opens the way to serious injury. You simply cannot afford to play modern rugby union when you are a little off the pace, a little short of full fitness.

And so, after a full season of brutal domestic conflict and the usual high-profile international, a tour has been organised for the brief break between seasons. And

Midweek View

the top players, on fat club contracts, with duties to themselves and to their principal employers, have, one after the other, dropped out.

It has become a very good tour to miss, a tour for losers and it will destroy many players involved, because they are not the best that England can provide. They will not become toughened by the experience next time they play for England. That is because they won't play for England next time. They will be destroyed, used up, found out, chucked aside. The big boys will come back from their surgeons and their physios and continue as if the tour had never been.

What does all this tell us? It tells us, not for the first time, about the absolute idiocy of the Rugby Football Union (RFU). It tells us, not for the first time, that the RFU has absolutely no idea about rugby union players. It tells us that the RFU really despises rugby union players and has no understanding of their lives. Only contempt. Well, they get paid enough don't they? We never got paid. Bah. Humbug.

Meanwhile, rugby union has been toughened up to a degree impossible for a human body to maintain, yet we get more and more of it. It is one of the great diseases of modern sport: more and more, spend the players like water, plenty more where that came from. And indeed there are plenty more, as this tour shows. But there are not plenty more players of excellence.

Kingsley Amis famously and shockingly wrote in favour of elitism in education, under the slogan: "More will mean worse." It is not true of education, which is not essentially an elitist matter. But sport is inescapably elitist; professional sport doubly so. We get more and more and more sport. And more will mean worse. QED. In the name of what are we doing this? Money, I suppose. Bah. Humbug. Send 'em home.

A very good tour to miss, a tour for losers, and many will be destroyed

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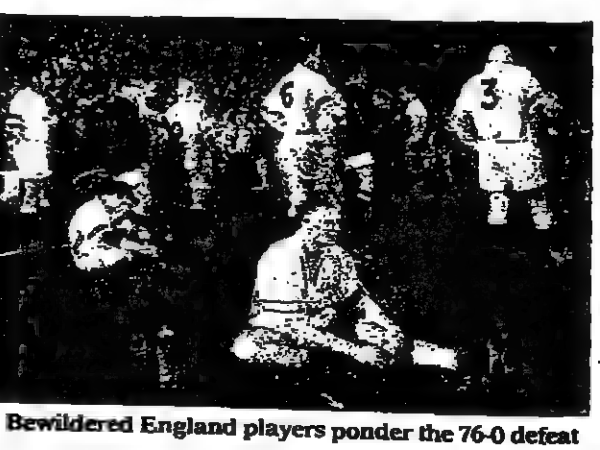
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Bewildered England players ponder the 76-0 defeat

GOLF: NOVICE NAGL CONQUERS THE FLOODS AND FEARS AT LITTLE ASTON

Brazilian offers breath of fresh air

By PATRICIA DAVIES

IT WAS scarcely samba weather during the first round of qualifying for the British women's Amateur Championship at Little Aston yesterday, but a girl from Brazil was the first to show that the course was playable after all.

In fact, Miriam Nagl, 17, is a cosmopolitan Berliner who studies in Florida and will be supporting Germany in the World Cup finals. She was born in Brazil — her father was in the air-conditioning business — and lived there for eight years. She has only been playing golf for five years and has yet to learn how tough the game can be, as indicated by a round of 71, one under par, in blustery conditions that baffled many an experienced competitor.

On Monday evening, 14 of Little Aston's greens were flooded and Julie Hall, the championship secretary, fearful of more rain, had to resort to the high ground for her pin positions, including one at the 14th that she admitted was "ridiculously difficult." To her surprise, she had no complaints — "I'd have moaned," Hall, who won this title in 1990 and 1995, confessed — but she was relieved when Nagl posted the first score under 78.

The youngster, who last week won the German junior championship by 16 shots, made a late run with birdies at the 15th, 16th and 17th. Her score was later bettered by Karin Icher, a formidable

talented 19-year-old from France, who would have broken 70 had she not missed a three-foot putt at the last hole. That came as a shock to Claire Dowling, her playing partner, who described Icher's putting as "phenomenally good" and was made to feel her age, 40, after an 82.

Dowling, four times a Curtis Cup player, said that she had no chance of making the green at two of the par-fours — the 400-yard 2nd and the 391-yard 10th — but described the way the course was set up as "tough but fair".

Barbara Hackett, the former Irish champion from Castleterry, coped better than most, countering three bo-

geys with a trio of birdies on the 3rd in her 72. The 28-year-old Munster champion has been improving her mental approach and smiled: "I don't panic as much as I used to."

With the Curtis Cup side due to be chosen this week, there is plenty of panic about but one player with no such worries was Sue Spencer, a Staffordshire county player from Whittington Heath, making only her second appearance in the championship, at the age of 35.

"I'm not one of the whippersnappers," she said, but a round of 77, that included a triple-bogey eight at the 3rd, deserved an honourable mention.

Results, page 42

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goulding loan offers rejected by St Helens

ST HELENS rejected offers by Sheffield Eagles and two first division clubs yesterday to take Bobbie Goulding, the Great Britain scrum half, on loan.

(Christopher Irvine writes) Goulding has been dropped for the past two matches because of poor form and is due to appear for the reserves at Widnes tomorrow. David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said: "We're down to 22 first team squad players and someone of Bobbie's calibre will not be going anywhere. He will play some part in the Alliance match against Widnes and is in contention for our home Super League game against London Broncos on Sunday."

John Kear, the Sheffield coach, had inquired about Goulding's availability as a stopgap replacement for Mark Aston, who is injured.

With Shaun Edwards, Matt Caland and Tahi Reihana the latest additions to a lengthy casualty list at Bradford Bulls, there was further bad news ahead of the game tomorrow against Wigan Warriors, after Warrington Wolves rejected a £50,000 offer by Bradford for Jon Roper, their centre.

Danny Peacock, Paul Anderson and Warren Jowitt are out for the season, and tomorrow, Graeme Bradley, the Bradford captain, faces a probable ban.

...not overturn
...y decision

Last chance to win cash prizes worth £50,000

To coincide with World Cup 98 The Times has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to choose your own team from the cream of the world's footballers. Simply pick 11 players from all those who will be vying for your attention this summer - it couldn't be easier.

HOW TO PLAY
Select a team of 11 players from the list, right. You can enter anytime until noon today using the hotline number below. You can only choose one player from any national team and you must select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). From noon today until noon, July 3, you will be allowed to make a total of six transfers. From noon, June 30 until the end of the tournament, you will be allowed two players from the same country in your team.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

PLAYERS WILL SCORE POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

- Goal - 3 points
- Assists - 2 points
- Defender/Goalkeeper Appearance - 1 point for a defender or goalkeeper playing 45 minutes or more of a match, including extra time
- Defender/Goalkeeper Clean Sheet - 3 points (2 points for clean sheet, 1 appearance point)
- Defender/Goalkeeper goal against - 1 point

Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team. If the last touch before a goal is scored from a team-mate but his touch does not significantly alter the speed or direction of the ball, then two separate assists are given, one for each of the players sending

up the goal. If the last touch before a goal is scored by an opposing player and it significantly alters the speed or direction of the ball, then no assist is given. In the event of a penalty, the fouled player gets an assist if the penalty is successfully scored, but not if he takes it himself in which case no assist is given. No assist is given for a player who earns a free kick which subsequently results in a goal. The decision of Fantasy League will be final on these matters.

Appearance points awarded to a defender or goalkeeper who is on the pitch for at least 45 minutes including extra time. Defenders or goalkeepers appearing in only part of a game will lose points for goals conceded while playing. If no goals are conceded while they are playing, they will be awarded a clean-sheet, if they are on the field for 75 minutes or more including extra-time.

Extra Time & Penalty Shoot-Outs: extra time (golden goal) goal and assists are awarded as above. For extra time goals points are deducted against the goalkeeper and defenders as above. No points are awarded for penalty shoot-out goals.

Details of how to check your team score using our Faxback service appear below. Use the list right to pick your world-beating 11.

Helpline: 01582 702 720, weekdays 9am to 6pm.

fantasy league
All information provided by Fantasy League Limited © Fantasy League Limited

HOW TO MAKE TRANSFERS

From noon today until noon on July 3, you will be able to make six transfers. After noon on June 30 you will be able to select a maximum of two players from the same national team. Call 0839 11 11 00 (Ex UK +44 870 901 4290) with your 10-digit PIN and the three-digit codes for the players you wish to transfer to hand. The transfers must result in a new team with only one player from any national team and in a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). Transfers made before noon will become active on the day they are made. Transfers made after noon will not become active until noon the following day.

Transfer hotline 0839 11 11 00
(Ex UK +44 870 901 4290)

0839 calls cost 50p per minute. +44 870 calls charged at national rate.

FAXBACK SERVICE

From noon tomorrow, you will be able to receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team and their performance with our unique faxback service. The service will be updated throughout the game. Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call. Pick Make sure you have your fax machine (if you do not have a handset up the handset or telephone button instead) and dial 0991 111 334. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. This service is only available in the UK. If you have any problems using this service, call the faxback helpline on 0171 412 3795.

Faxback hotline 0991 111 334
0991 calls cost £1 per minute.

HOW TO ENTER

Select a team of 11 players from the footballers listed right. You can only choose one player from any national team and have to select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). Make a note of the three-digit number for your 11 players. Call the hotline number right, and when prompted, tap in the player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) - make sure you write this down and keep it safe, you will need it to check your team's progress and make any transfers. The call will last approximately seven minutes. (0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. Calls from outside the UK (+44 990) are charged at national rate.

ENTER BEFORE NOON TODAY BY CALLING
0891 66 55 88
(Ex UK +44 990 100 385)

Plus win England tickets

Readers have until noon today to enter World Cup Fantasy League and for the chance to win a pair of tickets for England's opening game against Tunisia in Marseilles on Monday, June 15. After noon we will select at random, from all those who have entered the competition, five readers who will each win a pair of tickets courtesy of Vauxhall, an official sponsor of World Cup 98. The prize does not include travel or accommodation. Entering World Cup Fantasy League couldn't be easier, simply follow the step by step instructions above and you and a friend could be there for real.



GOALKEEPERS			DEFENDERS			MIDFIELDERS			STRIKERS		
101	Carlos Rios	ARGENTINA	201	Nestor Senesi	ARGENTINA	301	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	401	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
102	Pablo Cavalero	ARGENTINA	202	Jose Chaves	ARGENTINA	402	Ariel Ortega	ARGENTINA	501	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
103	Germán Adam Burgos	AUSTRIA	203	Roberto Ayala	ARGENTINA	403	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	502	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
104	Frank Wolfrum	AUSTRIA	204	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	404	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	503	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
105	Filip de Wilde	AUSTRIA	205	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	405	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	504	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
106	Tellus van der Sar	AUSTRIA	206	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	406	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	505	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
107	Carlos Garmy	BRAZIL	207	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	407	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	506	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
108	Boris Michailov	BULGARIA	208	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	408	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	507	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
109	Zdravko Zlatev	BULGARIA	209	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	409	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	508	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
110	Jacopo Simonini	CHILE	210	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	410	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	509	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
111	Nelson Tapia	CHILE	211	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	411	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	510	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
112	Marcelo Rios	CHILE	212	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	412	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	511	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
113	Diego Simeone	COLUMBIA	213	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	413	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	512	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
114	Ferdinand Wiedner	COLUMBIA	214	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	414	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	513	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
115	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	215	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	415	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	514	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
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174	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	274	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	474	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	573	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
175	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	275	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	475	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	574	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
176	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	276	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	476	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	575	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
177	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	277	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	477	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	576	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
178	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	278	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	478	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	577	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
179	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	279	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	479	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	578	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
180	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	280	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	480	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	579	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
181	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	281	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	481	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	580	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
182	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	282	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	482	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	581	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
183	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	283	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	483	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	582	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
184	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	284	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	484	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	583	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
185	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	285	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	485	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	584	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
186	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	286	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	486	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	585	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
187	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	287	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	487	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	586	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
188	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	288	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	488	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	587	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
189	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	289	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	489	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	588	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
190	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	290	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	490	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	589	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
191	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	291	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	491	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	590	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
192	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	292	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	492	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	591	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
193	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	293	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	493	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	592	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
194	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	294	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	494	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	593	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
195	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	295	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	495	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	594	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
196	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	296	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	496	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	595	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
197	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	297	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	497	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	596	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
198	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	298	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	498	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	597	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
199	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	299	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	499	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	598	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
200	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	300	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	500	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	599	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
201	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	301	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	501	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	600	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
202	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	302	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	502	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	601	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
203	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	303	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	503	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	602	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
204	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	304	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	504	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	603	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
205	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	305	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	505	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	604	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
206	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	306	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	506	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	605	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
207	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	307	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	507	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	606	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
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209	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	309	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	509	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	608	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
210	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	310	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	510	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	609	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
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213	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	313	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	513	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	612	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
214	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	314	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	514	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	613	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA
215	Diego Simeone	CROATIA	315	Diego Simeone</							

THE WORLD CUP TODAY

GROUP A

BRAZIL v SCOTLAND

FROM OLIVER HOLT

The pitch at the Stade de France was half in shadow, half in bright sunlight when the Brazil players sauntered on to it yesterday evening. The sound of the studs of Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Roberto Carlos and the rest echoed round the hulk of the empty stadium.

Their final training session before they open their defence of the World Cup against Scotland here tonight was the epitome of casual chic, a wonderful exercise in Latin nonchalance and poise. Their skills, even in a circular game of keep-ball, were breathtaking. Their touches were extravagant, exaggerated chest-downs, exotic flicks, perfect use of almost every part of their body to control the ball as if human and ball were utterly at one.

There are some who feel that, perhaps, like the inspired side of 1982, this latest incarnation of flair football, mixed though it is with the hard edge of the Primera Liga and Serie A, may be fatally flawed. Despite their status as clear favourites to win their fifth World Cup, many feel they may slip up if they come up against Argentina, likely semi-final opponents, or Germany.

There is a lingering concern about their defeat this year by the United States in Miami and by Argentina in Rio de Janeiro. But they have such bewildering strength in depth that they can afford to leave out Denilson, the most expensive player in the world. Even the place of Leonardo was in doubt until yesterday, but he is now tipped to start. Altogether, they should be far too strong for Craig Brown's side.

"The Scottish team hold no secrets for us," the Brazil coach, Mario Zagallo, said. "They have an excellent sweeper in Hendry and know how to counter-attack when the occasion presents itself."

"I accept that we are still something of an unknown quantity. Because the 1994 Brazilian side had to qualify, we found out about its qualities long before the finals. This time around, it's a little different as we will only discover the team's worth as the tournament progresses. Our victory in the Copa America in 1997, though, has enabled us to draw certain conclusions."

Sunday July 12	Final	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	FINAL
Saturday July 11	Third-place play-off	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, RSL/Talk	THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
9 & 10 JULY REST DAYS					
Wednesday July 8	Winner 9 v Winner 12	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
Tuesday July 7	Winner 10 v Winner 11	8pm	Marseille	tba, RSL/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
5 & 6 JULY REST DAYS					
Saturday July 4	11. Winner 6 v Winner 8	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	12. Winner 5 v Winner 7	8pm	Lyons	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
Friday July 3	9. Winner 1 v Winner 3	3.30pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	10. Winner 2 v Winner 4	8pm	Nantes	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
1 & 2 JULY REST DAYS					
Tuesday June 30	7. Winner G v Runner-up H	3.30pm	Bordeaux	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	8. Winner H v Runner-up G	8pm	St Etienne	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Monday June 29	5. Winner F v Runner-up E	3.30pm	Montpellier	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	6. Winner E v Runner-up F	8pm	Toulouse	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Sunday June 28	3. Winner C v Runner-up D	3.30pm	Lens	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	4. Winner D v Runner-up C	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Saturday June 27	1. Winner B v Runner-up A	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	2. Winner A v Runner-up B	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Friday June 26	Group H Japan v Jamaica	3pm	Lyons	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group H Argentina v Croatia	3pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Romania v Tunisia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Colombia v England	8pm	Lens	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Thursday June 25	Group E Belgium v South Korea	3pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Holland v Mexico	3pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group F Germany v Iran	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group F United States v Yugoslavia	8pm	Nantes	ITV	GROUP STAGE
Wednesday June 24	Group C France v Denmark	3pm	Lyons	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group C South Africa v Saudi Arabia	3pm	Bordeaux	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group D Spain v Bulgaria	8pm	Lens	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group D Nigeria v Paraguay	8pm	Toulouse	ITV	GROUP STAGE
Tuesday June 23	Group B Italy v Austria	3pm	Stade de France	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group B Chile v Cameroon	3pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group A Scotland v Morocco	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group A Brazil v Norway	8pm	Marseille	BBC	GROUP STAGE
Monday June 22	Group G Colombia v Tunisia	4.30pm	Montpellier	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Romania v England	8pm	Toulouse	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Sunday June 21	Group F Germany v Yugoslavia	1.30pm	Lens	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group F Argentina v Jamaica	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group F United States v Iran	8pm	Lyons	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Saturday June 20	Group H Japan v Croatia	1.30pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Belgium v Mexico	4.30pm	Bordeaux	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Holland v South Korea	8pm	Marseille	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Friday June 19	Group D Nigeria v Bulgaria	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV	GROUP STAGE
Thursday June 18	Group D Spain v Paraguay	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Wednesday June 17	Group C South Africa v Denmark	4.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, Talk	GROUP STAGE
Tuesday June 16	Group C France v Saudi Arabia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Monday June 15	Group B Chile v Austria	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, Talk	GROUP STAGE
Sunday June 14	Group B Italy v Cameroon	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Saturday June 13	Group A Scotland v Norway	4.30pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Friday June 12	Group A Brazil v Morocco	8pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Thursday June 11	Group G England v Tunisia	1.30pm	Marseille	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group G Romania v Colombia	4.30pm	Lyons	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group F Germany v United States	8pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Wednesday June 10	Group H Argentina v Japan	1.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE
	Group F Yugoslavia v Iran	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL	GROUP STAGE
	Group H Jamaica v Croatia	8pm	Lens	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Tuesday June 9	Group D Spain v Nigeria	1.30pm	Nantes	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group E South Korea v Mexico	4.30pm	Lyons	ITV	GROUP STAGE
	Group E Holland v Belgium	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Monday June 8	Group D Paraguay v Bulgaria	1.30pm	Montpellier	ITV	GROUP STAGE
	Group C Saudi Arabia v Denmark	4.30pm	Lens	BBC, Talk	GROUP STAGE
	Group C France v South Africa	8pm	Marseille	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Sunday June 7	Group B Italy v Chile	4.30pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Saturday June 6	Group B Cameroon v Austria	8pm	Toulouse	BBC, RSL	GROUP STAGE
Friday June 5	Group A Brazil v Scotland	4.30pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL/Talk	GROUP STAGE
Thursday June 4	Group A Morocco v Norway	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL	GROUP STAGE

MOROCCO v NORWAY

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

Brazil may be favourites in group A, but Norway seem certain to take second place, at least. This is a powerful, compact team with more flair than 1994, when they failed to beat ten-man Italy in Giants Stadium. Morocco, judged by their form in the recent Casablanca tournament, are unlikely to resist them in Montpellier's Stade La Mosson, though after a disappointing display against England, who beat them 1-0, they were a great deal better in their 2-2 draw with France.

Salaheddine Bassir scored both Morocco goals and will need careful watching. At 25, he is sharpening his game in Spain, like others in the squad, and has scored 15 international goals. Morocco also place great hope on Youssef Chippo, a midfield player who has had a productive season in Portugal with FC Porto, the champions. Henri Michel, the experienced French coach of Morocco, picks out Noureddine Naybet, a central defender, as his key man, but he and his colleagues at the back will find it hard to contain a talented attack.

Young strikers such as Tore Andre Flo, of Chelsea, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Manchester United player, have broken through since 1994 and Norway's direct, economical football overwhelmed Mexico in a recent international, while they will have no fear of Brazil, having beaten them 4-2 in Oslo in their most recent meeting. Egil Olsenstad has had a fine season leading the Southampton attack and Norway could well afford to play all three of those strikers.

There is, as can be seen, a huge "English" presence in the team. The Manchester United pair of Ronny Johnsen and Henning Berg are expected to be partners in central defence, with Stig Inge Bjornebye, of Liverpool, at left back.

NORWAY (4-3-3): F. Gjesa — G. Helle, H. Berg, R. Johnsen, S. Bjornebye, S. Solbakken, K. Rekdal, O. Lonnhaugen — E. Olsenstad, T. A. Flo, O. G. Solskjaer.

MOROCCO (4-4-2): A. Bazzi — A. Sallal, Y. Bazzi (or R. Nourou), N. Naybet, A. El Hadrou — M. Hach, R. Azzouzi, S. Chippo, Y. Chippo — S. Bazzi, A. B. Khattabi.

TV: OFF: 8pm. TELEVISION: BBC1, Eurosport, RADIO: Radio 5 Live.

EXTRA TIME

What they said: "I don't think the French people realise that this is an event of the greatest significance worldwide and that it's taking place in France." — Aime Jacquet, the France manager.

Bets of the day: 200-1 Scotland to beat Brazil 1-0 this afternoon, Roberto Carlos scoring an own goal. The bet has been placed by Justin Currie, lead guitarist with Del Amitri, the rock group. He had a dream, has invested £50 and stands to win £10,000 if Roberto Carlos swears a shot into his own net. 100-1 Kevin Gallacher to score the first goal and Scotland to win 1-0. 11-4 Ronaldo to score the first goal.

Odds supplied by William Hill

THE GROUPS

Brazil	Austria	Denmark	Bulgaria	Belgium	Germany	Colombia	Argentina
Morocco	Cameroon	France	Nigeria	Holland	Iran	England	Croatia
Norway	Chile	Saudi Arabia	Paraguay	Mexico	United States	Romania	Jamaica
Scotland	Italy	South Africa	Spain	South Korea	Yugoslavia	Tunisia	Japan

IN THE NET
The Times World Cup 98
http://www.times.co.uk/worldcup
Coupe du Monde 98
http://www.france98.com
Fifa 1998 World Cup
http://www.fifa.com
BBC World Cup 1998
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldcup
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World Cup

THE TIMES

FRANCE 98 PREDICTIONS



Rob Hughes

- Argentina
- France
- Brazil
- Germany



Oliver Holt

- 1 Argentina
- 2 Holland
- 3 Brazil
- 4 England



Lynne Truss

- France
- Brazil
- Holland
- England



Kevin McCarra

- 1 Italy
- 2 Brazil
- 3 England
- 4 Holland



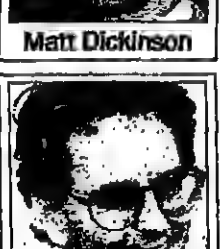
Brian Glanville

- Brazil
- Germany
- Argentina
- Italy



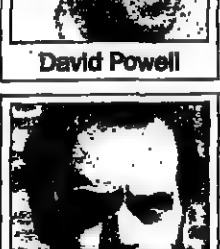
Matt Dickinson

- 1 Argentina
- 2 Italy
- 3 Spain
- 4 Holland



David Powell

- Argentina
- Italy
- Brazil
- England



Russell Kempson

- 1 Brazil
- 2 Norway
- 3 France
- 4 England

Scots unlikely to prove soft touch

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN PARIS

SO FAR as videos of Brazilian football go, it will never be a best seller. It does not feature Pelé, Tostao, Rivelino or Garrincha. Nor is it suffused with the benign mood of men who had no need to make peace with disappointment. Nonetheless, the footage enraptures the members of the Scotland World Cup squad.

These men face Brazil in the opening match of the tournament, at the Stade de France, and they have relished the tape of their opponents lumbering through a 4-2 defeat by Norway last summer. "We have looked at it because it shows Brazil letting themselves down," said Tom Boyd, the defender. "We cannot put them on too high a pedestal because we have to compete."

As an after-dinner speaker, Alex McLeish, the Hibernian manager, is prone to reminisce about his experiences as a callow youth at the 1982 World Cup, where Scotland lost 4-1 to Brazil. He claims that, in the closing minutes, six men were marking Zico since each of them wanted to be in proximity to him at the full-time whistle in the hope of swapping jerseys.

Scotland have taken too many souvenirs of that sort from previous World Cups: colourful scraps associated with failure. Bucking that trend will always be a daunting task, but the Scots could at least rid themselves of deference that is often disguised as good cheer. They have long been an easy touch, collecting only four victories in 20 matches at the World Cup finals dating from 1954.

The self-deprecation of those who follow the team is attractive, but it has been achieved by sacrificing ambition. Humiliation followed, in the past, whenever Scotland imagined themselves capable of exciting. It is natural that nobody should wish to court such ignominy again, yet life without hope is arid. It may be that the current side has at



Members of the Brazil team train in relaxed style in the final session before the match with Scotland

last succeeded in creating a new identity.

Delusions of superiority are denied entry to this squad, but its members are in the habit of believing in their own competence. Craig Brown, the manager, likes to refer to men who have proved that there can be a good exchange rate for talents valued in Scotland. John Collins has won a League championship medal with AS Monaco and Paul

Lambert was part of the Borussia Dortmund team that defeated Juventus to take the European Cup in 1997.

When one considers the service that Colin Hendry and Kevin Gallacher have given to Blackburn Rovers, the suspicion grows that Scotland tend to understate the talent available to them. Matching Brazil, of course, is another issue entirely, no matter how weakly they have

played in recent friendlies, but Brown's team will not crumple as readily as some of its predecessors.

The decisions taken for tonight's game are bold. "It is not our intention to play in defence," the manager told the international press. "That would be a recipe for disaster." Those remarks may have struck his audience as courteous platitudes. The substance to the assertion came

later, in less crowded surroundings, when Brown told the Scottish journalists his line-up.

Darren Jackson is one of three forwards in it, although he will be expected to take up a deeper role when Scotland are under pressure. Brown has come to the conclusion that attacking Brazil is a matter of prudence rather than romance. He is convinced that there are weak-

nesses to be exposed. Accordingly, there is no room in the side for Billy McKinlay, whose principal contribution would have been tenacity.

"When Roberto Carlos comes forward from left back," Brown explained, "there is space left behind him. Jackson can exploit that and I'm sure that Burley will cope with Roberto Carlos in defence."

It is the manager's theory that men such as Collins and Burley, when they press forward, can reveal frailty in the Brazil full backs if Scotland are only deft enough in switching play from one wing to the other.

Such thoughts almost amount to insubordination, if not downright folly. The customary foreboding over a

TODAY'S TEAMS

SCOTLAND (3-4-1-2): J. Loughton — C. Caldwell, C. Hendry, T. Boyd — C. Burley, P. Lambert, J. Collins, C. Dooly — D. Jackson — G. Durr, K. Gallacher.

BRAZIL (4-4-2): Taffarel — Cafu, Aldair, Junior Baiano, Roberto Carlos — Giovane, Dunga, César Sampaio, Rivaldo — Ronaldo, Bebeto.

match with Brazil, whom Scotland have never beaten, has, however, faded over the months since the draw was made. "They are justifiably called the best team in the world," said Brown, "and they are favourites to retain the World Cup, but I expect them to have a difficult match against us."

The opening game has a habit of throwing up surprises and it will be a surprise if we win. Some people would even regard a draw as a surprise. Scotland's sound form in warm-up matches and their opponents' difficulties have engendered a degree of hope. "The boys have worked hard," Brown remarked, "and they are due a wee turn."

For the moment, with a curious calm upon Scotland, it almost seemed sane to regard a win over Brazil as a little reward for industry.

Waiting game offers practice to accept rub of the green

I did not expect that a game of bowls would be featuring in my preparations for the World Cup. It is a sport I was not planning to take up for a few years yet because I am only 26, but it was a hard-fought contest, with Paul Lambert, Simon Donnelly, Jackie McNamara and me on the green on Monday evening. It might have taken light to stop play if there had not been a team meeting.

As you will gather, there is a lot of time to fill. Our hotel in Provence is luxurious and there are film shows and other events organised for us, but, of course, we have to be in a secluded spot. We need peace to get on with our build-up. All the same, it is a relief to know that we will soon be playing our match with Brazil at last. The bigger the game, the longer the wait.

Last month, there was a week to fill before Celtic could win the Scottish championship by beating St Johnstone. For the opening match of the World Cup, the delay has been far longer because everyone has been discussing it since the draw was made in December. Whenever there is a big game ahead, people want to come up and tell you what you should do.

Naturally, we understand all that ourselves and we are just dying to go out on the pitch and do it for real. In the meantime, it has all been calm in the Scotland squad. We have been training hard in hot conditions and sometimes there have been two sessions a day, so the idea of getting an early night has become highly popular with the squad.

It was only on Monday that

Craig Brown even began to talk to us in depth about Brazil. I think he was wary of making a fuss earlier in case he just built up Brazil in our minds. There is no other country that means so much in football. All of us grew up watching their great players and we can remember seeing marvellous goals and wonderful bits of skill.

What Scotland have to keep in mind is that we are not playing the people we saw on television and we cannot allow ourselves to be impressed just because the opposition are wearing those famous jerseys. The team that faces us is the current Brazil and they are not invincible. We need to be level-headed about the whole occasion as well.

The size of the crowd itself should not matter. With Celtic, I play in front of 50,000 people at every home match and the 80,000 in the Stade de France will be no shock. The unusual element is the hype, with the razzmatazz and the opening ceremony. We will be glad to reach our dressing-

CRAIG BURLEY



room and cut ourselves off from all of that. The really nervous moment will come when we are standing in the tunnel and I don't know how that is going to feel.

At least when the game begins we will be back in a familiar situation. With Scot-

land, I usually play on the right of midfield and if that happens again tonight I will be up against Roberto Carlos, the Brazil left back. I am just glad that he is slow and has no left foot. Joking apart, every member of our side will be facing excellence.

We have to work as a team and cover each other because we must avoid any of our players being caught one-on-one with an opponent. In that situation, someone like Ronaldo will beat his man nine times out of ten. Good organisation, though, now has a huge effect on international football. Scotland know all about that, because we have had our problems against smaller nations. You only have to look back to the 0-0 draw with Estonia. Against Brazil, it is up to us to be the awkward underdogs.

In years gone by, our fans prided themselves on getting tickets for the big game. Despite the small allocation they always seemed to pack out Wembley. I don't believe that can happen at a World Cup that is so tightly regulated and there really will be just a few thousand at this match.

We will still know they are there. How can you fail to notice people who are prepared to wear something as heavy as a kilt, even when it is as warm as this? Scotland will try to play good football, but our main ambition is to reach the second round by whatever means necessary. I have heard it is taken for granted that every opening match will be a bore. So long as the result is a good one for us, I will not mind at all if we live up to those expectations.



Roberto Carlos is likely to provide stern opposition



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Ferdinand set to fulfil great expectations

When Glenn Hoddle talked about "no fear" this week, it could have been a hollow soundbite rather than a stirring call to battle, but, in Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand, the England coach can offer up the living embodiment of his words.

England knows already about Owen and, soon, so will the world. The Liverpool striker is ready to crash on to Planet Football like a comet. In the meantime, Ferdinand, a year older at 19, is likely to pick up a few splinters on the substitutes' bench, yet he, too, has the youthful assuredness to seize the day without hesitation or trepidation.

He has confounded most expectations already by being in France at all. While most observers were convinced that he would be walking out of Hoddle's hotel room in Spain last week and not stopping until he arrived home in East London, the West Ham United defender was as confident and composed as ever.

"I always thought I had a chance," he said. "I thought I was about 50-50. I always believed I might be in the squad from when I made my debut against Cameroon last year. I set my sights on it then. You have to be ambitious."

It was an international debut delayed by a conviction for drink-driving, but it would be harsh to brand Ferdinand with the likes of Gascoigne and Sheringham as yet another of English football's miscreants. Cocksure and a little flash, perhaps, and more likely to be seen in Armani than Umbro on his days off, Ferdinand insisted that his fall from grace was an error of judgement rather than an indication of a deep flaw.

"It was just a one-off thing when I didn't think, not a habit or anything like that," he said. "Glenn reassured me

Matt Dickinson
talks to a young
England defender
with the talent to
sweep all before him

then that it would not affect me in the long-term if I came back a better and stronger person and I think I have. It was a big embarrassment for myself, my friends and my family, but I have learnt.

"It was a hard way to learn but sometimes things happen for a reason. It made me

'I always believed I might be in the squad... you have to be ambitious'

realise that you have to be careful when you are an England footballer and think about how you behave. You are not a normal person any more. A lot of people said it was good that it happened so early in my career."

Stung by the short sharp shock that Hoddle administered when he withdrew Ferdinand from possible selection as a punishment for his con-

brought with them a buck-toothed kid in braces. Ronaldo was in the squad, but there merely to soak up the experience and it may be that Ferdinand does the same in France.

That Hoddle believes he can be a mainstay of the national side for World Cups to come is indisputable and, while the England coach abandoned plans to establish Ferdinand as a sweeper behind a back four in time for this tournament, it is a strategy likely to be resumed after the summer.

With his long legs, graceful swag and love, so rare among English defenders, of toying with the ball, it may not be too long before Ferdinand is eclipsing Sol Campbell as the country's most assured young defender, assuming that he eradicates the moments of self-indulgence that sometimes spoil otherwise impeccable displays at the heart of the West Ham defence.

He surely will. "A mate pointed out the other day that I could play in four World Cup finals," Ferdinand said, "but to do that, I know I have to take care of myself and look after my body." Perhaps the penny is dropping at last.

Ferdinand: potential

vicion, the young defender is more aware now of his responsibilities, realising that the nonsensically premature comparisons that he suffers with the late, great Bobby Moore cannot be answered only by strutting regally around a football pitch.

"Everyone at West Ham talks about what a gentleman he was just as much as what a great player," Ferdinand said, "and I know that is important. People say there are similarities, but he is a legend, a one-off. He was one of the greats and I am just beginning."

Time is on Ferdinand's side, but whether he can add to the three caps already to his name this summer is debatable. When Brazil arrived in the United States for the World Cup finals four years ago, they

happened that is likely to have changed Hoddle's mind. In the intervening period, England's three opponents, though liberally sprinkled with talented individuals, have played 27 matches between them and won only nine.

The victories include such victims as Guinea, Moldova, the Democratic Republic of Congo, a French Regional Select XI, a Wales side short on power and motivation and La-Tour-du-Pin, a French regional second division club. Colombia, Romania and Tu-



Michael Laudrup, of Denmark, works on his free kicks during training yesterday in Toulon, preparing for the Danes' opening match of the World Cup against Saudi Arabia, which takes place in Lens on Friday

Colombia struggle to find form

By Russell Kempson

WHEN the draw for the World Cup finals was made in December and England were grouped with Romania, Colombia and Tunisia, Glenn Hoddle could barely conceal his satisfaction. "It could have been a lot harder," he said.

For a man who rarely reveals his true feelings, it was tantamount to punching the air, rubbing his hands with glee and telling anyone who cared to listen that England should cruise into the second round.

Six months on, little has happened that is likely to have changed Hoddle's mind. In the intervening period, England's three opponents, though liberally sprinkled with talented individuals, have played 27 matches between them and won only nine.

The victories include such victims as Guinea, Moldova, the Democratic Republic of Congo, a French Regional Select XI, a Wales side short on power and motivation and La-Tour-du-Pin, a French regional second division club. Colombia, Romania and Tu-

nisia have not exactly enjoyed the rudest of health during their warm-up programmes for the greatest show on earth.

"It could have been easier, but I feel we are in the middle ground," Hoddle, the England coach, said last year. "We can go into the finals in a positive mood. We are well capable of qualifying, but we need to do our homework. I feel like I want to start tomorrow."

England have to wait until Monday to start, when they play Tunisia in their opening group G match in Marseille. Though Tunisia have won five of their 12 fixtures and reached the quarter-finals of the African Nations' Cup before losing on penalties to Burkina Faso, the hosts, they have not been overly exciting.

Romania have three victories in six outings, including a recent unbeaten four-match sequence, but have been hampered by a lack of funds. A recent training trip to Switzerland was cancelled because

the football authorities could not afford the flight.

There have been no such problems for Colombia, but they have one of the worst recent records of the 32 finalists — one success in nine attempts. Until they defeated mighty La-Tour-du-Pin 1-0 on Sunday, with a goal from Faustino Asprilla, they had not won a game since the World Cup draw was made.

Many factors dictate the pattern of the competing nations' preparations for France — availability of players, financial guarantees, popularity and the strength of the governing football association. Mexico lead the way in games played, 20, though many of them have been against opponents of dubious quality. Their 5-1 defeat against Universidad Catolica, of Chile, in April was not warmly received at home.

Many other countries have endured similarly exhaustive schedules on the road to France, but they are usually

the smaller footballing nations who are more easily able to gain the release of their players. Brazil are the exception, having played 15 games around the world, but they are sponsored by Nike, the company with clout. Although everybody would like a piece of Brazil, it comes only to those who pay for it.

Of more than 300 games played since December, Paraguay have earned the title of worst qualifier. They started promisingly, beating Poland 4-0 in Asuncion in February, but have failed to win in ten attempts since. Argentina, Norway and Holland have had the most impressive of passages. Argentina have won eight of nine matches, Norway are undefeated in five — part of a 14-match unbeaten sequence — and Holland have not lost in six.

However, while pre-tournament results can lift or break morale, the equal measure, when the World Cup kicks off in Paris today, they will be placed in their true perspective. They count for nothing.

It is much the same elsewhere. If Brazil win group A, they are likely to encounter Cameroon or Chile. Spain and Holland en route to Saint-Denis. If they finish second, Italy, France and England could stand in their way. If Germany win group F, Belgium, England and Italy might block their path; if they finish second, it will be Holland, Argentina and Brazil. For England, it is clear. Win the group, reach the final, beat Brazil. Simple. As Hoddle already knew, anyway.

THE PERFORMANCES OF ALL 32 FINALISTS SINCE QUALIFICATION FOR FRANCE 98

ARGENTINA: Feb 19 (Mendoza): Argentina 2 Romania 1, Feb 24 (Mar del Plata): Argentina 3 Yugoslavia 1, Mar 10 (Buenos Aires): Argentina 2 Bulgaria 0, Apr 15 (Jusselmann): Argentina 1 Argentina 1 (Duisen): Ireland 0 Argentina 2, Apr 29 (Rio de Janeiro): Brazil 0 Argentina 1, May 14 (Cordoba): Argentina 5 Bosnia-Herzegovina 0, May 19 (Mendoza): Argentina 1 Chile 0, May 25 (Buenos Aires): Argentina 2 South Africa 0.

AUSTRIA: Mar 25 (Vienna): Austria 2 Hungary 3, Apr 22 (Vienna): Austria 0 United States 1, May 27 (Vienna): Austria 2 Tunisia 1, Jun 2 (Vienna): Austria 6 Liechtenstein 0.

BELGIUM: Feb 25 (Brussels): Belgium 2 United States 0, Mar 25 (Brussels): Belgium 2 Norway 2, Apr 22 (Brussels): Belgium 1 Romania 1, May 27 (Brussels): Belgium 0 France 1 (Nantes), May 29 (Cassablanca): Belgium 0 England 0 (won 4-3 on pens. K.H.C. Jun 6 (Brussels): Belgium 3 Colombia 0, Jun 6 (Brussels): Belgium 1 Paraguay 0.

BRAZIL: Dec 7 (Johannesburg): South Africa 1 Brazil 2, Dec 12 (Riverside): Saudi Arabia 0 Brazil 3 (CC gr. A), Dec 14 (Riverside): Australia 0 Brazil 0 (CC gr. A), Dec 16 (Riverside): Brazil 3 Mexico 2 (CC gr. A).

CHINA: Dec 19 (Riyadh): Brazil 2 Czech Republic 0 (CC gr. A), Dec 21 (Riyadh): Australia 0 Brazil 6 (CC gr. A), Feb 3 (Miami): Brazil 1 Guatemala 1 (CC gr. 1), Feb 8 (Los Angeles): Brazil 4 El Salvador 0 (CC gr. 1), Feb 10 (Los Angeles): United States 1 Brazil 0 (CC gr. 1), Feb 15 (Los Angeles): Brazil 1 Jamaica 0 (CC gr. 1), Mar 25 (Stuttgart): Germany 1 Brazil 2, Apr 29 (Rio de Janeiro): Brazil 0 Argentina 1, May 31 (Bilbao): Austria 0 Brazil 1, Jun 1 (St. Omer): Austria 0 Brazil 3.

BULGARIA: Dec 23 (Barcelona): Catalonia 1 Bulgaria 1, Mar 10 (Buenos Aires): Argentina 2 Bulgaria 0, Mar 25 (Bogota): Macedonia 1 Bulgaria 0, Apr 22 (Sofia): Bulgaria 0 Morocco 1, Jun 1 (Hamburg): Kazakhstan 0 (Ger) 0 Bulgaria 4, Jun 5 (Sofia): Bulgaria 2 Argentina 0.

CAMEROON: Dec 22 (Cairo): Egypt 2 Cameroon 0, Dec 24 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Dec 26 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Dec 28 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Dec 30 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 1 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 3 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 5 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 7 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 9 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 11 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 13 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 15 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 17 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 19 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 21 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 23 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 25 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 27 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 29 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Jan 31 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Feb 2 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Feb 4 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Feb 6 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Feb 8 (Cairo): Cameroon 3 Argentina 2, Feb 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REVIEW

novelty value has ended, I don't think it will be that successful anyway." But Warren's fear is not so much aesthetic as commercial.

"If anything—God forbid—goes wrong, it will be something the sport will never recover from. It struggles to recover from men getting badly hurt. A woman getting badly hurt would be a major disaster, for the woman and for boxing."

Like us, Warren probably suspects that in 50 years' time we will look back at boxing in the way we look back at bear-baiting. How ironic that women who are everywhere fighting to move the world forward should also be campaigning for an equal right to behave like cave-men. And if women are so keen to shed their "feminine" ideas, they shouldn't be allowed to just pick and choose; they should also become adept, for example, at the "manly" art of

Joe Joseph

Jane Couch thinks she is fighting for a just cause, like universal suffrage: "I'm gonna change history!" If Warren's fears of injury prove founded — why shouldn't they? — then Couch might well go down in history for changing the sport of boxing: not by giving women equal status in the ring but

by getting it turned once and for all.

But since Couch already spends a chunk of her life feeling dazed and confused, she at least stands a better chance than most of us of not even noticing the chaos that will erupt the minute Big Ben chimes in the new century. The Millennium Time Bomb, a *Disaster Special* on BBC2, painted a chilling, all-too-believable picture of the social, economic and political disruption that will be triggered when the millennium bug kicks in and cripples millions of computers around the world.

According to Robin Guenier of Task Force 2000: "The best that can happen" — very worrying, that "best" — "is that there will be failures, and that that unpleasant experience will last for several months. The worst could be a total breakdown of systems, a chaos in our world lasting for months, or

The only person with a smile on his face will be Peter Mandelson. He can now enjoy the next 18 months, knowing for certain that on the night of December 31, 1999, there will be at least one disaster even bigger than the Millennium Dome.

But the most baffling part of it is how did we let ourselves entrust our lives to air-traffic control systems, nuclear power plants, hospital intensive care units and banking networks, all of which are controlled by computer software that has been programmed by a breed of people who were too dumb even to realise that using only two digits for the date on a computer chip instead of four (which is why computers will switch from Year

um) was sowing the seeds of catastrophe? Do you feel happy entrusting your life to an aeroplane whose computerised flight systems have been designed by these same people?

If, as the doomsayers warn, we haven't a minute to lose before the millennium arrives, I'm not sure how many of us were happy to have thousands of us waiting 15 minutes watching *The Red (B)C2* these past three weeks. Often, this murder mystery-cum-satire on the BBC and politics tasted like a thinly spread sandwich. It might have been tastier to concentrate the humour into a smaller, more intensely flavoured canapé.

It had many enjoyable moments, and the acting was a joy. But in the end the satire was rarely savage enough to draw blood: more the sort of affectionate ribbing you give a colleague at his

CHANNEL 1

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellites. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News and Sport (8441132)

7.00 WorldWide (r) (t) (8624403) 7.30 Milkshake! (3554720) 7.35 Wind in the Willows (2464958) 8.00 Hawkazoo (t) (4887823) 8.00 Dapdetdown Farm (r) (486294)

9.00 Natural Tales (r) (t) (4773774) 9.30 Russell Grant's Postcards (7118300) 9.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (4138010) 10.25 Sunset Beach (T) (5847229) 11.10 Looza (5748605)

12.05 5 News at Noon (T) (4680010) 12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (t) (4594923) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (t) (8623774) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4593294) 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (5934652) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (3269300)

3.30 The Final Test (1953, b/w) Comedy with Jack Warner, Robert Morley and George Relph. A cricket hero prepares for his last game. Directed by Anthony Asquith (8633497)


5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: The Spice Girls Performance and chat (1561128)

6.00 100 Per Cent (5727841)

6.30 Family Affairs (T) (1022233)

7.00 5 News (T) (8114251)

7.30 The Popel Chart includes a performance of Life, the new single from Des'ree (5622297)



Richard Chamberlain reprises his role as Father Ralph (8.00pm)

8.00 The Thorn Birds: The Missing Years (1/2) Mini-series that sees the return of Richard Chamberlain as the cleric torn between a woman (Amanda Donohoe) and the Church. Concludes tomorrow (T) (5583885)

9.45 Within the Rock (1995) with Xander Berkeley, Caroline Barclay and Bradford Tatum. Sci-fi horror about a team of miners in space who uncover a deadly alien in a platinum chamber. Directed by Gary J. Tunkliffe (3697923)

1.15 The Jack Docherty Show (3510710)

Nicky Campbell examines relations between Scotland and England (7.30)

Egil Olsen will be hoping for a good start for Norway (7.30pm)

Ally (Calista Flockhart) has to defend one of her employers (10.00pm)

Richard Chamberlain reprises his role as Father Ralph (8.00pm)

TRAVEL (CABLE)[illegible]

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person sitting on the ground, leaning back against a wall. The person is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and dark pants. They are wearing sneakers and have their legs extended forward. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Pele hopes that Ronaldo, wearing boots designed specially for the World Cup, can maintain the tradition of Brazilian brilliance. Photograph: Paulo Whitaker

PARIS, before a ball is kicked in the World Cup today, has been a city of contrasts. On many streets, it is as if the shutters are still up, a population hiding behind them indifferent to the arrival of 32 national teams, to the hype and expectation of this game that, with luck, will unite the world as the games of the next four weeks are transmitted to billions of people wherever there is television and sport.

Yet the Parisians cannot hide. The Scots are among them, on the streets in their kilts, drinking but inescapably friendly, merging with the yellow-clad Brazilians, with whom they share an im-

prompt language: the ball and the love of the thing. It is refreshing, especially after the odour of corruption that the game's administrators presented two days ago.

And what an honour for Scotland. It may be a little nation, but its footballers are at the Stade de France today, where they kick off the World Cup against Brazil, the champions. There are those who will tell you that the result is a foregone conclusion, but they do not include Pelé. Whatever happens to him in life, Pelé is *Le Roi*, the king of his game. Taking lunch with him, and with two former great Brazilian full backs, Nilton Santos

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

and Carlos Alberto, plus Alfredo di Stefano, one of the finest Argentinians, in the centre of this capital city yesterday was to hear not only the reminiscence of old men bringing their eras to life, but also how the wonder of football still motivates and enthuses them.

Pele is the first to tell you, for example, with excitement dancing in his eyes, that the level of football at this World Cup will be higher than before. Even more enthusiastically, he insisted: "All the biggest players, the good names in this World Cup, are forwards. Think back: it was Lothar Matthäus, the Germany midfield player or defender, who everyone said was the player of 1990, when this decade began. "Now it is Raúl of Spain, Zidane [France], Batistuta and Ortega [Argentina], Salas [Chile], Bergkamp [Holland] and, of course, Ronaldo [Brazil]."

He mused, savouring what

he hopes will be a tournament to justify his faith in attacking play, in flair, and then added: "There is one I didn't mention, he is very young, like me when I began to play for Brazil. Michael Owen excites me very much. I'm sure if the coach thinks the time is right, that his age [18] will be no problem. In 1958, I was only 17: we had a psychologist who told us Pelé is too young. I think he was wrong!"

The quartet of former great international players hoped that somehow there will be maverick players prepared, perhaps because of their wealth and independence, to claim some freedom to express their skills over and above the oppressive tactical demands of their coaches.

Hovering in the background at this gathering was Socrates, perhaps the last truly liberated Brazilian playmaker. He is a qualified doctor, has always smoked, but he bestrode the Brazil

team like the leader of a jazz quartet, playing to the rhythm in his head. He suggested yesterday that Brazil lacks a true midfield, that it possesses arguably the finest individuals in the world, but has a chasm between defence and attack.

Can Scotland exploit it? It would kick the tournament off spectacularly if the Scots could draw, never mind win, but if it was a consequence of defensive neurosis triumphing over attacking impetus, what then would it do for the games to

Pelé spoke from the heart. "I want Brazil to win another World Cup, it is in my blood, but I don't know if Brazil is really a team. I don't think they have enough time to play together. I am worried that Scotland could deny them."

That the past masters were talking about the present, indeed about the future that kicks off tonight, was intriguing enough, but they had gathered because Mastercard had been foolish enough to invite journalists from 24

nations to choose "the world football team of the 20th century."

To see some of their art in sepia tones, to relive together with them the glorious moments of their careers, had me wondering whether, in today's repressive sporting times, the tactics would dull their craft. The answer, surely, is that they were not talents that you could obliterate by any defensive means yet organised. Here, then, for better and not worse, is the XI:

Lev Yashin — Carlos Albero, Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Moore, Nilton Santos — Johan Cruyff, Alfredo di Stefano, Michel Platini — Garrincha, Pelé, Diego Maradona.

Their standards are relevant and so is their presence here, where the idea of a World Cup was first formed, because any young player earning millions today owes them a debt. They set the tradition: gentlemen of the world's 32 finalists, you may follow.

Sheringham left on bench in cloak-and-dagger operation

**FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT,
IN PARIS**

IN AN atmosphere of absurd and pointless secrecy, Glenn Hoddle squeezed one last warm-up game into England's pre-World Cup schedule last night and dropped a heavy hint that Teddy Sheringham may play with his starting place in the opening group game against Tunisia on Monday for his indiscretions in Portugal last week.

In a match that Hoddle did his utmost to hide from prying eyes, he dived in favour of Michael Owen, the young man who has been threatening for some months to force his way into the first team alongside Alan Shearer. After all the positive things Owen has done to convince Hoddle of his worth, the irony is that it may be the foolishness of Sheringham that has finally forced Hoddle's hand.

As a cordon of police stopped all but a chosen few entering the stadium in Caen, England sneaked an unconvincing 1-0 win over the local side, who finished eighth in the French second division last season. Paul Scholes, playing in the central-midfield three with Paul Ince and David Beckham that many feel will start against Tunisia in Marseilles, scored the only goal in the 64th minute.

There was significance, also, in the presence of Darren Anderton in the right wing-back role and of Rio Ferdinand, playing at left wing-back as cover for Graeme Le Saux. Talented though the young West Ham United sweeper is, it is hard to see his talents being best utilised in

that position. "It was a very worthwhile exercise," Hoddle said, "not least because some players have not had match practice for a fortnight."

Most attention, though, centres on the presence of Owen instead of Sheringham. Such is the Liverpool striker's burgeoning reputation that his odds to become the tournament's leading scorer have shortened to 16-1. He has built up such a momentum that it seems increasingly difficult for Hoddle to leave him out.

Sheringham was not allowed off the substitutes' bench last night in what is bound to be interpreted as a punishment for his indiscipline in Portugal, when he was photographed in a nightclub at night, cigarette in one

tho at some expense in one hand, karaoke singer in another. Steve McManaman, also in contention for a starting place now that Paul Gascoigne has departed, came on as a late substitute for Owen.

Even Owen's opportunity, though, could be another of the red herrings that appear to obsess Hoddle and hamper his team's preparations. One interpretation of the game was that it was some sort of elaborate stunt. If playing Owen from the start last night

was intended to throw people off the scent, so he could reintroduce Sheringham in Marseilles, what is the point of playing behind closed

And so, as the Brazilian players lined like carefree spirits around the lush turf of the Stade de France, putting the finishing touches to their preparations for the start of the tournament against Scotland tonight, England were

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being spirited into Normandy in a cloak-and-dagger operation that made them look like shame-faced fugitives.

They were ferried from the small aerodrome at Caen to the ground, where a cordon of police had been thrown around the Michel d'Ornano stadium in an attempt to prevent the media from spying on the match that Hoddle had organised against the club's young reserve team.

secret had already been thrown into disarray when the Football Association agreed to Caen's request to allow 200 VIP guests into the stadium, but the FA persisted with the sham of dissemblance by withholding details of Hoddle's starting side even as they were being leaked to French newspapers by journalists among the select invitation list.

Huddle's approach is at odds with the rest of the countries competing here. It has raised fears about his ability to handle the pressure of the tournament and seems to have dissipated many of the positive feelings stemming from his decisive treatment of Gascoigne and firm stance with Sheringham.

It had already been noted that not only were England one of the last to announce their squad for the tournament but that, when yesterday dawned, they were one of only three teams, along with Tunisia and Holland, not to arrive in the host country.

From Caen, chosen because of Hoddle's friendship with Jean Dupoux, the club's general manager, and because of the more obvious merits of its geographical proximity to La Baule, where the squad will be based for the next three weeks, the players and staff flew to St Nazaire, where they left for their hotel. Perhaps now they will be allowed to get on with their preparations in an atmosphere free of subterfuge.

ENGLAND (3-5-2). D. Seaman (capt. N. Martin 64min) — G. Neville (capt. M. Newman, 70), A. Adams, G. Southgate — D. Aspinall, D. Blackford, P. Ince, P. Scholes, R. Ferdinand — A. Shearer, M. Owen (capt. S. Hutchinson 72).

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KYNNIE THORPE: writing biweekly about football since Euro 96, she will pen a daily column from France.

GUY PEARCE HOLTS: the longest serving sports journalist in country will be following **DANIEL KELLEY:** the Welsh referee, who is known as the whistle on television during tournaments.

KEVIN HUGHES: the former football writer north of the border will be keeping us abreast.

STEVE WINTER: starting today, the Celtic national player reports on the challenge being Scotland.

TOMORROW

MARCO SERRILLI: ex-England's internationalist



THE TIMES WORLD CUP '98
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THE TIMES

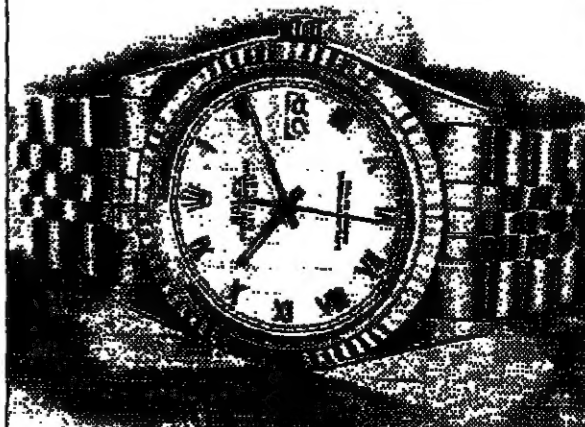
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No 1428

ACROSS

1 Not be persuaded easily (4,4,2,3)

8 Faultless (7)

9 Decorate (5)

10 Young boy (3)

11 Alfred Nobel's invention (\$)

13 Close and squeeze (hands) (6)

14 Heavy (starchy) food (6)

17 Confined to the initiated (5)

19 Hardly any (3)

21 Of punishment (5)

23 Pirate; sounds like *rough manner* (7)

24 With no personal gain at stake (13)

DOWN

1 Inhabitants collectively (6)

2 Shorten (egg book) (7)

3 Shade; Vietnam port (3)

4 Plump, spherical (6)

5 Exceptionally wounding (9)

6 Tile mortar (5)

7 Look after; incline (4)

11 Ten-event athletic contest (3)

12 The Americas (3,5)

15 Rebellious (7)

16 Child-minding centre (6)

18 Air cavity in head (5)

20 Little spade; a veg (4)

23 Be sorry about (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1427

ACROSS: 7 Supplication 9 Macduff 10 Poach 11 Keel
 12 Anglican 15 Skyscape 17 Slur 19 Gable 21 Rulings
 22 Astronomical

DOWN: 1 Butchery 2 Opium 3 Tiffin 4 Tadpole 5 Lima
 6 Enchantress 8 Smoke signal 13 Calendar 14 Echelon
 16 Period 18 Oldie 20 Bite

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4.30 BBC1
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2.00 ITV

Today in the World Gap

